Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-090
Tuesday
10 May 1988

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-090 *10 May 1988*

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LD1005132788 [Editorial Report]

PLO on U.S. Warning

A U.S. document warning the PLO against mounting terrorist attacks on U.S. targets is an "insolent" threat and is directed against the representatives and leaders of the Palestinian people, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat asserted at a press conference reported by WAKH.

The PLO leader was responding to a U.S. document which warned that the United States will hold the PLO responsible for any attack on U.S. citizens or interests carried out in revenge for the assassination of Khalil al-Wazir, WAKH noted.

'Arafat denied the document's contention that he may have ordered attacks on U.S. targets in revenge for the assassination, and he described the U.S. warning as "tantamount to incitement and the creation of a climate for further operations."

A PLO spokesman cited by WAKH likewise considered the U.S. stand as "new evidence" of U.S. intentions to commit "hostile acts" against the PLO and its leadership. According to Radio Monte Carlo, 'Arafat also viewed the document as a "declaration of war" on Palestinian leaders.

Lebanon

Amal-Hizballah Clashes—Syria will not allow the bloodshed to continue indefinitely, and it has sent an ultimatum to both sides warning them to resolve their dispute before Syrian forces are called upon to find a solution, Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an stated in remarks reported by Beirut radio.

A related AFP report noted that 36 Syrian soldiers are working with representatives of Iran, the Amal Movement, and Hizballah in six committees charged with supervising a cease-fire.

The clashes abated the evening of 9 May after further fighting raised the death toll to over 100, with Amal and Hizballah accusing each other of committing atrocities, AFP said.

On the course of the battles, Beirut radio reported that Amal counterattacked and made several advances, seizing a number of buildings. In contrast, Hizballah sources cited by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon maintained that Hizballah is in "full control of the situation on the ground," asserting that Hizballah captured several Amal centers following a "large-scale" defection by Amal fighters.

Voice of Lebanon radio subsequently reported that over 2,500 Amal gunmen had arrived from eastern and southern Lebanon and were massing on the airport road in preparation for an attack on Hizballah.

The radio also cited a statement by Hizballah reaffirming its commitment to the cease-fire and accusing the "war criminal"—a reference to Amal leader Nabih Birri—of attempting to undermine it.

Beirut radio broadcast an appeal for an end to the fighting by Shaykh Muhammad Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council. Describing the violence as a "crime and a scandal," he said the actions of both parties are "taboo, objectionable, and immoral," and contradict their claims to be Muslim.

Amal and Hizballah have no right to make "general political decisions" unilaterally, he said, and they must participate in political decisionmaking through the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council.

He urged Shi'ite civilians to express their rejection of the armed conflict through mass demonstrations and marches.

Southern Clash—Israeli helicopters killed a number of "terrorists" in the southern village of Qabrikha 9 May, Jerusalem radio reported. The helicopters strafed a house that was used by gunmen to launch an ambush on a South Lebanese Army patrol.

Israel

Peres Tour—Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' visit to Budapest "elevates by one step" the level of bilateral relations between Israel and Hungary, Foreign Ministry Political Director General Yosi Beilin asserted in an interview with Jerusalem television.

Beilin, who accompanied Peres to Budapest, maintained that the visit was "held at the initiative of the Hungarians." According to YEDI'OT AHARONOT, the visit was initiated by Hungarian Prime Minister Karoly Grosz, who was among the officials who received Peres during his stay in Budapest.

Peres reportedly told the Hungarians that East Bloc countries cannot constructively influence the Mideast peace process without ties with Israel.

The foreign minister subsequently flew to Madrid to participate in the Socialist International conference and meet with Spanish leaders, Madrid radio reported. Peres stopped over at an Italian military airport during his journey for talks with the Italian foreign minister, Jerusalem radio disclosed, noting that their discussion focused on the situation in the West Bank and Gaza.

Palestinians—A general strike was observed throughout "Judaea and Samaria" 9 May in response to a call by "extremist nationalist elements," Jerusalem radio reported.

The funeral of the man killed in Al-Duhayshah turned into a large demonstration and the IDF closed off the area. As for the fate of Mubarak 'Awwad, the radio noted that the hearing on his appeal against deporation will take place in 2 weeks. 'Awwad will remain in prison until after the hearing.

Inter-Arab Affairs

An Arab League summit will convene in Algiers 7 June to "define the best strategy" for supporting the Palestinian struggle against Israel, Algiers radio announced.

Afghanistan

Thirty Afghan planes violated Pakistani airspace to bomb a town in the Chitral District, AFP reported, adding that at least six people were killed. The agency pointed out that the incursion was the largest Afghan bombing raid against Pakistani territory since 1979.

The warplanes also attacked mujahidin positions in Barikowt on the Afghan side of the border, killing some 12 guerrillas and wounding more than 20.

In Kabul, at least 11 people were killed and 12 others wounded as a result of 17 missiles fired by "enemies of national reconciliation," TASS reported.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Summit Set for 7 Jun in Algiers

LD0905130688 Algiers Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 9 May 88

[Excerpt] Algiers will become the center of the Arab world on 7 June. The sovereigns and heads of states and governments of the Arab League countries will gather on that day in an emergency summit to discuss one important subject, support for the Palestinian people's uprising in the Israeli occupied territories.

On 7 June the Arab states will have to define in detail the means and the best strategy for supporting the population of the occupied territories in its struggle against the Zionist enemy. [passage omitted]

Arab League Condemns Israeli 'Incursion'

LD0605123988 Kuwait KUNA in English 1127 GMT 6 May 88

[Text] Tunis, May 6 (KUNA)—The Arab League on Friday charged that the Israeli incursion into southeast Lebanon this week has been designed to distract international attention from Israel's dilemma in putting down the five-month old Palestinian uprising in occupied Arab lands.

"It is clear that Israel aims through this latest aggression to fuel tensions in the region in hopes of diverting international attention from the heroic uprising of the Palestinian people and the Israeli crimes against this people," said a communique issued in the name of Secretary General Chedli Klibi.

The statement pointed out that the Israeli sweep into Lebanon came at a time of intensified regional and international efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli dispute, and testified against Israel's rejection of peace, and its violation of international law.

The senior Arab official said the Arab world this time expects the U.N. Security Council, especially the U.S., to satisfy itself not only with resolutions of condemnation but firm action that guarantee a cessation to the recurrent Zionist aggressions.

Arab League's Klibi Backs Saudis on Iran Ties

PM0605155788 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 28 Apr 88 p 1

[Muhammad Mahjub report: "Klibi to 'UKAZ: Severing Relations With Iran Is Arab Duty"]

[Excerpts] Jeddah (by telephone)—In reply to a question put by 'UKAZ about the Arab League's position on the continuing Iranian practices that led the Kingdom to decide to sever all relations with Iran, His Excellency Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi said:

"The decision made by the Saudi Kingdom to sever relations with Iran is the result of the Iranian Government's insistence on continuing the policy of unrest, intimidation, and aggression with a view to undermining stability in the states of the region, in addition to Tehran's failure to respond to Security Council Resolution 598 calling for an end to the war in order to establish peace among all the states in the region, as dictated by Islamic ties, values, and traditions." [passage omitted]

"For all these considerations the Kingdom was forced to make such a decision in order to maintain its sovereignty and the safety of its territory and people. In addition, it is the Kingdom's duty to take, for the same purpose, similar measures as national and pan-Arab interests dictate. It also has the right to receive from the fraternal states all backing and support for its legitimate efforts."

Further on Arab-African Committee Meeting

Damascus Reports Speeches

JN031738 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] The meetings of the ministerial committee for Arab-African cooperation opened this morning. Participating in the meetings are the Syrian and Sudanese foreign ministers representing the Arab countries, the Congolese and Zimbabwean foreign ministers representing the African countries, and the secretaries general of the Arab League and the OAU.

In his opening speech, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' welcomed the friends and brothers. He said that hosting this meeting in Damascus, the historic Arab capital, illustrates the belief of Syria and President Hafiz al-Asad of the importance of bolstering Arab-African relations in various areas and deepening the spirit of solidarity and ties of cooperation between the two sides, especially since the basic issues and the great challenges facing our Arab and African countries are nearly the same in their form and content and are greatly similar in their circumstances and historical context.

Al-Shar' affirmed that our people, who have managed to defeat old colonialism, are also able to defeat the colonialist settlement of the racist regimes of occupied Palestine and South Africa regardless of how long it will take.

He also stressed that the Zionist entity is being shaken by the stones of the Palestinian Arabs because they express their determination to liberate. The uprising is echoing throughout the world, stressing that there is no alternative to the Palestinian.

The steadfastness of our people in the occupied Golan and their rejection of the occupation authorities' laws, despite the seige imposed on them over the years, also expresses their strong will and affiliation to their homeland, Syria.

Despite Israel's invasions of Lebanon in 1978 and 1982 and its continued brutal aggression against it, the security belt is a wound in the Israeli body and a source of pride for the Lebanese resistance men in their continuous struggle against the Zionist enemy.

The Arab League Secretary General also delivered a speech in which he stressed that this joint meeting of the Arab League and the OAU on the ministerial level represents an important event in Arab-African cooperation because it expresses joint belief in the need to promote this cooperation despite all circumstantial difficulties.

He expressed thanks to Syria for hosting the meeting and for providing facilities for this brotherly meeting, which is aimed at reinforcing cooperation between the African and Arab groups.

OAU Secretary General Ide Oumarou then delivered a speech in which he extended thanks to Syria for its continued efforts under President Hafiz al-Asad to raise the level of Arab-African cooperation.

He also thanked the president for hosting the current meeting in Syria, as well as for Syria's struggle against imperialism and Zionism. He said such a struggle for freedom inspires many peoples.

The OAU secretary general also reviewed the joint factors of Arab-African cooperation and solidarity, foremost of which are the geographic and historical factors. He added that Africa and the Arab homeland are stepping up their joint efforts to achieve liberation from the two regimes, South Africa and Israel, which are practicing the same means of repression, racism, and aggression.

At the end of his speech, he stressed the need to take the necessary measures to hold the 9th session of the permanent committee of the Arab-African Ministerial Committee.

Antoine Ndinga-Obo, Congolese foreign affairs and cooperation minister, also delivered a speech in which he affirmed that Syria and its people enjoy wise policies that distinguish the great leader Hafiz al-Asad as well as his deep understanding of national and international issues.

He pointed out that Arab-African cooperation has moved from the stage of intentions to the stage of actual appliction. He added that this is expressed by the establishment of specialized bodies, such as the permanent committee of experts, the specialized working committees, the coordination committee, and the ministerial committee.

He also reviewed the overall difficulties facing Africa and the Arab homeland. He said that these difficulties should encourage us to mobilize our energies to face the challenges, because unity is strength.

Committee Issues Statement

JN031803 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] At the end of the opening session of the meetings of the ministerial committee for Arab-African cooperation, the conferees issued a statement on the Palestinian people's uprising and the South African and Namibian peoples' struggle.

The statement says: The ministerial committee meeting held in Damascus to study ways to reinforce and develop Arab-African cooperation has noticed with concern the grave developments in the occupied Arab territories and South Africa.

These developments have resulted from the continuation of the occupation and the racist policies of the two racist regimes in occupied Palestine and South Africa as well as the repressive and terrorist measures against citizens, the owners of the land, who are struggling to achieve freedom, sovereignty, and dignity.

The ministerial meeting expressed its full support for the heroic struggle of the Palestinian Arab people and the citizens of the other occupied territories against the Israeli occupation.

This uprising constitutes a turning point in the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people. It also urges the international community to shoulder its responsiblity to end the Israeli massacres against the Palestinian people and respect UN resolutions, the Geneva agreements, and the principles of international law on human rights.

The ministerial meeting also stressed the need for the Security Council to shoulder its responsibility toward the grave situation in the occupied Arab territories. The conferees believe that a just and comprehensive peace based on the principles of the UN Charter and its relevant resolutions can be achieved only through the convening of a UN-sponsored international conference to be attended by all parties to the dispute, including the PLO, the Palestinian Arab people's sole legitimate representative, and the Security Council permanent member states.

This conference should be effective and endowed with full powers in order to achieve a just and comprehensive peace based on a total Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, including holy Jerusalem, and on guaranteeing the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights, especially their right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil.

The conferees also voiced their support for Syria, which is a confrontation state and for the Syrian Arab citizens in the occupied Golan in their continued struggle to preserve their rights and their national identity.

They also expressed support for the Lebanese national resistance and its continued struggle against the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon. They called for the immediate implementation of the UN resolutions calling for an immediate and unconditional Israeli withdrawal.

The meeting also stressed the support of the OAU and the Arab League for the heroic struggle being waged by the African liberation movements, the African National Congress, the All Africa Congress, and SWAPO in order to establish a just and democratic society free of racism and to achieve independence for Namibia in accordance with Security Council Resolution No 435 issued in 1970.

In addition, the meeting called on the international community to apply the necessary pressure on the racist Pretorian regime to force it to end its occupation of Namibia and its aggression against Angola.

It also strongly condemned the terrorist practices of the two racist regimes in Israel and South Africa, including the assassination of martyr struggler Khalil al-Wazir, the aggression against Tunisia's sovereignty, and the assassination of African struggler [name indistinct], representative of the African National Congress in Paris.

The meeting also expressed support for the Arab and African confrontation states in their struggle and steadfastness against the two racist regimes in occupied Palestine and South Africa. It also stressed the importance of Arab-African cohesion to achieve the joint goals in freedom and dignity.

OAU Secretary General Departs

JN041605 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Damascus—OAU Secretary General Ide Oumarou left Damascus today after taking part in the meetings of the ministerial committee on Arab-African cooperation, which were held in Damascus.

He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Faruq al-Shar', minister of foreign affairs; Zuhayr 'Aqil, commissioner general of bureaus for boycotting Israel in the Arab world; and the director of the Arab homeland desk and the chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry.

In a predeparture statement to SANA, Oumarou thanked the Syrian Government and the Syrian Arab people for hosting these meetings. He said: We are leaving Damascus very pleased and full of admiration for the Syrian Arab people's adherence to their leader, President Hafiz al-Asad. He acknowledged the role played by Syria in confronting Zionism and colonialism.

Regarding the results of the meetings of the ministerial committee on Arab-African cooperation, Oumarou pointed out that these meetings were successful because the viewpoints exchanged between the Arab and African sides were identical. These viewpoints, he said, were very frank and brotherly.

He added: We have reached tangible results, and we will work within the organization to put these resutls into practice through the specialized organs. I hope that these results will receive due attention and help support and bolster Arab-African cooperation.

Arab League's Klibi Leaves

JN042020 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi left Damascus this afternoon after participating in the meetings of the ministerial committee for Arab-African cooperation.

Those seeing him off included Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the commissioner general of the bureaus for boycotting Israel in the Arab world, and the chief of protocol and director of the Arab homeland desk at the Foreign Ministry.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Reacts to U.S. Warning on Attacks

JN100520 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0504 GMT 10 May

[Hasan al-Kashif dispatch from Baghdad]

[Text] The United States has threatened the PLO and holds it responsible for any terrorist attack against U.S. citizens or interests. The U.S. threat includes Yasir 'Arafat personally.

The threat came in an official U.S. document conveyed to the PLO leadership yesterday through an Arab state at Washington's request.

The document, of which we obtained a copy from Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] this morning, says: The United States has received information that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat may have personally approved a number of terrorist attacks on U.S. citizens and interests, perhaps in revenge for the assassination of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir]. We will hold the PLO responsible for any such attacks. The U.S. document recalls what a U.S. State Department spokesman said on 8 April regarding Washington's noninvolvement in Abu Jihad's assassination.

We asked Yasir 'Arafat for his comment on the document. He said: It is like someone who wants to draw attention to his suspicious actions.

I asked him about the possibilites and he replied:

The possibilities are there. The U.S. text is serious. It is the first time such an aggressive text has been used. This boldness and insolence is directed at the representatives of the Palestinian people and their leaders while Abu Jihad's blood is not yet dry.

'Arafat added:

This design is intended to distort our image and to cover up for what is coming. After such words, Washington bears the responsibility for whatever happens to the Palestinian leaders. Washington bases its accusation against the PLO on mere assumptions while it is positively sure of holding us responsible.

We asked 'Arafat about his countermeasures and he asserted:

We have in fact taken our own precautions to safeguard the security of our leaders and offices. I ask U.S. and world public opinion to bear witness. We have informed the United Nations and Arab and friendly states of the situation. I expose such methods of intimidation by the U.S. Administration.

Asked about the Cairo Declaration following Khalil al-Wazir's assassination, Yasir 'Arafat said: The matter has been referred to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak for he is the guarantor of the declaration.

Abu 'Ammar said the U.S. document is a threat to the uprising and is intended to have an adverse effect on it and is a declaration of war on the Palestinian leaders.

Holds News Conference

JN100932 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0810 GMT 10 May 88

[By Faruq Shukri]

[Text] Baghdad, 10 May (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has accused the United States of preparing for direct or indirect new killings of leaders of the PLO and the Palestinian people.

Speaking at a press conference after midnight last night, Yasir 'Arafat said the PLO received a secret U.S. document that includes open possibilities for all kinds of aggression.

Yasir 'Arafat said the U.S. document was conveyed to him through an Arab state yesterday. He said the document contains a threat which is the first of its kind received by the PLO in its past years.

'Arafat said the document is an "insolent" threat and is directed against the representatives and leaders of the Palestinian people.

He said: "Not more than 3 weeks after the assassination of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, we receive a threat to the commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces."

English language copies of the document and their translation into Arabic were distributed. Following is a text of the document.

Heading: "A Possible Threat From the PLO To U.S. Targets"

You may be aware of the accusations made in numerous Middle East circles, and particularly in Palestinian circles, about U.S. knowledge and approval of Abu Jihad's assassination.

On 18 April a U.S. State Department official spokesman said the United States condemns that political assassination, had no knowledge of it, and was not in any way involved in that assassination.

We have learned that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat may have personally ordered a series of terrorist attacks on U.S. citizens and U.S. interests abroad perhaps in revenge for the assassination of Abu Jihad last month.

"Any attack on our citizens or on U.S. interests in revenge for Abu Jihad's assassination will be unjustified and totally condemned. We will hold the PLO responsible for any such attacks." [quotation marks as received]

"End of document"

In his press conference Abu 'Ammar said he has given instructions to the PLO representative at the United Nations to submit this document—"the threat"—to the international organization so the public will be informed about it.

He said: "The U.S. document is tantamount to incitement and the creation of a climate for further operations." 'Arafat said the document was also sent to the nonaligned states and the Arab, Muslim, socialist, and European states to inform them of the new U.S. plan against the PLO and Palestinian leaders.

In answer to a question, 'Arafat said he holds the U.S. Administration responsible for whatever happens to Palestinian leaders in the future. He said: "The PLO's accusation that the U.S. Administration was involved in Abu JIhad's assassination was not made by the PLO, but was mentioned in Israel and was then picked up by the U.S. media. [No end quotation mark as received]

Abu 'Ammar denied the PLO is planning for the kind of retaliation to which the U.S. document refers. He said: "They should remember that I saved the lives of American citizens several times, twice in 1976 and once in 1982 when I was under siege in Beirut."

'Arafat added: I also guaranteed the safety of all foreign nationals. Earlier, I provided guards for all the European and U.S. embassies in Beirut when I was there.

'Arafat also referred to the PLO role in bringing about the release of 13 hostages in Tehran and ensuring the return of the bodies of the dead Americans killed during the abortive U.S. action in the Tabas desert in Iran.

'Arafat declared: "This U.S. threat does not shake me. I am carrying out my duty. I want to expose the terrorist methods which the U.S. Administration pursues against the PLO."

'Arafat supported possibilities that the United States would fabricate a crime or an incident directly or through Israel to serve as an excuse for retaliating against the PLO.

He said: The document entails dangerous things. Abu 'Ammar linked the new U.S. threat to Shultz' new tour of the region. He said a part of this threat is aimed at affecting the popular uprising and preparing for Shultz' new tour of the region.

He described the claims included in the document as baseless. Answering questions, 'Arafat recalled several incidents of U.S. involvement against the PLO. He said the Americans denied their involvement in the Israeli operation against the PLO headquarters in Tunisia.

However, after the U.S. spy Pollard fled to Israel [as received], the Americans admitted his involvement and held him responsible. When McFarlane resigned, they admitted facilities were granted by the 6th Fleet to the Israeli planes.

He said the PLO will be forced to adopt additional measures for its offices and places where its personnel are located following this dangerous threat.

Prior to the conference, a responsible PLO source stated the following:

The PLO leadership received indirectly a dangerous paper from the U.S. Administration through an Arab state. In this paper, the U.S. Administration refers to expected dangers aimed against U.S. civilians, interests, and establishments.

What is dangerous in the official U.S. release is that it claims that the expected dangers will result from terrorist attacks approved and backed by Brother Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

That warning holds the PLO responsible for any attacks that might affect U.S. civilians and interests as the U.S. warning accuses the PLO of planning for retaliatory attacks after the martyrdom of leader Abu Jihad.

The PLO considers this U.S. official stand an extremely dangerous indication and new evidence of U.S. intentions for hostile acts against the PLO and its leadership.

The PLO also considers that stand a continuation of the hostile U.S. political stand on the Palestinian people and the PLO, their sole, legitimate representative. This stand is accustomed to covering up its crimes and constant hostility toward our people by a false, tendentious claim describing the Palestinian people's struggle as terrorism and accusing their leadership of preparing for terrorist operations.

The facts which were affirmed by our people's uprising clearly, and with thousands of pieces of evidence, say that the terrorists are the Israeli rulers. They commit terrorist crimes and systematic, bloody oppression against the armless Palestinian people.

The terrorists are those who support this systematic official Israeli terrorism, supplying U.S. weapons and aircraft from U.S. factories which kill our children and women and our people in occupied Palestine and southern Lebanon and which are used against the Lebanese people.

The assassination of Abu Jihad reaffirms that Israeli terrorism is a systematic state terrorism, which is preplanned and predetermined. These facts embarrass the United States, the main ally and partner of the Israeli Government.

Yet at the same time, the U.S. Administration is trying again to escape politial embarrassment by accusing the PLO and its leaders of terrorism instead of stopping its support for these continuous and systematic Israeli crimes against our people.

The United States is doing all this instead of correcting its stand toward our people, cause, and the legitimate inalienable rights of our people by getting rid of the hateful occupation and confronting the occupiers' savage Nazi crimes against our children, women, and people.

The PLO is fully aware of the political and field objectives of such claims. The PLO views such objectives as a U.S. inclination to indulge further in the continuing terrorist acts against our peoples and leaders.

That prompts the PLO to strongly warn against the dangers arising from such U.S. intentions and their present hostility to the Palestinian people and leaders.

The PLO reminds U.S. public opinion of the PLO role in securing the safety of many U.S. citizens more than once in several places, despite the U.S. Administration's persistently hostile stand toward the Palestinian people, their leaders, and just cause.

The PLO, from a position of responsibility and profound awareness of the new scheme, affirms its ability to confront such a scheme to expose and foil it, ensure the safety of the march and its leaders, and safeguard its honorable reputation of struggle which is divorced from terrorism and is committed to the forms of internationally approved struggle.

The U.S. Administration will not deceive anyone and will not be able to change the fact it is fully supporting the terrorists ruling Israel.

[Dated] Baghdad, 10 May 1988.

Answering a question from a correspondent on the PLO's commitment to the Cairo Declaration, 'Arafat said the matter is in the hands of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak for he is the guarantor of the Cairo Declaration.

'Arafat noted that prior to Abu Jihad's assassination three PLO leaders were assassinated. He also recalled the Israeli attacks on the ship "Al-'Awdah."

'Arafat Receives Message From Soviet Leaders

JN081837 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1727 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received the Soviet ambassador to Iraq at his place of residence in Baghdad today. The Soviet ambassador conveyed an important message to brother leader Abu 'Ammar from the Soviet leadership.

The message deals with recent developments in the Middle East and the Palestine question. Attending the meeting was PLO representative to Iraq Brother 'Azzam al-Ahmad.

PLO's Qaddumi on Palestinian Affairs, Arab Ties

JN080811 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1955 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 7 May (WAKH)—PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi has stated that he held two telephone contacts with Syrian Foreign Faruq al-Shar' yesterday and today within the context of the two sides' efforts to halt the current clashes in the Shatila camp in West Beirut.

Qaddumi told the press here today that the Syrian minister had informed him that Syria is exerting efforts to stop this fighting. Qaddumi described the current clashes in the Shatila camp as fabricated, adding that the Palestionian people avoid any clashes.

He described the reconciliation steps that had been made between the PLO and Syria as tangible steps. He also said that dialogue between the two sides will have a positive impact on the Palestinian revolution in the occupied territories, on joint Arab action, and on the Arab confrontation of the U.S. schemes to halt the uprising and revive the settlement schemes in the region.

On whether specific agreements were concluded between the PLO and Syria, Qaddumi said: Accord in itself is an agreement.

He was asked if he will visit Damascus soon. He said it had been agreed to pursue the dialogue and to discuss basic issues in more detail. He affirmed that support for the uprising and the confrontation of U.S. schemes are two basic points in the discussions between the PLO and Syria.

On reports that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat may visit Damascus soon, Faruq Qaddumi said 'Arafat has taken the first step toward Syria and nothing prevents his visiting Sryia again at any time.

He explained that the question of convening a new PNC session had not been raised for discussion.

On whether there is an intention to transfer PLO offices to Syria and Beirut, Qaddumi said the resumption of good relations with Syria means that we will have a presence in Syria but not necessarily all the presence.

He said that the PLO has not given any thought to transferring its headquarters from Tunis.

Qaddumi explained that the current status of Palestinian fighters in the Arab countries is that of a strategic organization the PLO is working to preserve.

On the future of the relationship between the PLO and Egypt in light of the rapprochement with Syria, he reiterated that any progress achieved in this respect will not be at the expense of any other country.

He pointed out that the PLO abides by its policies and by the Arab summit resolutions and is eager to safeguard Arab solidarity and have Egypt assume its vanguard role.

On whether there is any intention to reinvigorate the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, Qaddumi affirmed there will be no return to previous agreements. He said the 11 February 1985 agreement with Jordan was abrogated and that the PLO will make advanced steps through understanding with the brothers.

In this respect, he described the PLO's relations with Jordan and Syria as good, adding these two countries are among the major confrontation states. He said the PLO is very eager to establish good relations with them.

On the fate of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' initiative, Faruq Qaddumi said Shultz did not submit an initiative but obsolete ideas which were previously rejected.

He ruled out the possibility of an international Middle East peace conference in the near future and stressed that the PLO insists on attending this conference with an independent delegation. He pointed out that the idea of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation is finished forever.

On the PLO's stand toward the Cairo Declarationon combating terrorism, particularly following the assassination of Khalil al-Wazir, Qaddumi affirmed that the PLO could never carry out terrorist acts that harm the security of other countries. He said Abu Jihad's [Khalil al-Wazir] assassination is a violation of international law and norms.

He accused Israel and the United States of violating these norms and called on other countries to adopt rigorous measures to freeze Israel's UN membership, given that it is the only member which pursues terrorist practices, supported by the United States.

Qaddumi reiterated the PLO's commitment to carry out armed operations against the Israeli occupation in the occupied Arab territories until the occupation is ended.

Qaddumi said the PLO is currently preparing a working paper it will submit to the Arab summit that will convene in Algeria next month. He said he expects the majority of Arab leaders to attend this summit and pointed out that the time has come to discuss common Arab issues.

On whether there is a plan to develop the uprising in the occupied Arab territories, Quaddumi said the Palestinian leadership's major preoccupation is to perpetuate the uprising.

He said the recent PLO Executive Committee meetings in Baghdad did not discuss the question of using firearms in the uprising.

PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi described the uprising as a comprehensive revolution which has shaken the Israeli entity, brought down many policy options, bridged the gap between Syria and the PLO, aroused Arab struggle, cut down to size Israel's political leverage, and made it lose many elements of its existence and permanence. He said the results of this uprising will be felt in the near future.

Qaddumi said that the impact of the uprising on Israel has made the messengers of doom arrive in Israel to rescue it and not to establish peace.

On the recent European moves to protect the occupied Arab territories from the Zionist practices, Qaddumi said the PLO monitors these political moves in the international arena with increasing interest and studies them carefully to know ultimately how to act.

Qaddumi added that it is important that the European countries undertake an initiative in this respect. He said security in the Middle East affects the European arena through dialogue and contacts.

He said that the strategic value of Israel, originally a European concept, has begun to diminish with respect to European interests and the international community has come to consider Israel a racist regime, like that in South Africa.

Qaddumi also spoke about the impact of the uprising on the U.S. society. He said the Middle East issue and the Palestinian cause have, for the first time, become part of the U.S. elections and some U.S. presidential candidates have been stressing the need to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

On the future of Palestinian relations with Iran in light of the Palestinian-Syrian reconciliation, Qaddumi said the relationship with Iran has witnessed no new developments.

He ruled out the possibility of an amelioration of the relations with Iran in light of the PLO's relations with Syria. He stressed that the PLO pursues its efforts to halt the Iraq-Iran war.

On 'Arafat's statement that the PLO is ready to mediate between Syria and Iraq, Qaddumi said that attaining rapprochement between Syria and Iraq is a Palestinian duty in view of the repercussions it has on Arab solidarity.

He said he hopes all the parties will respond to these efforts at the appropriate time and when circumstances for carrying out such a role come to fruition.

PLO's Abu Sharif Cited on Syria, Lebanon Camps

JN081232 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1010 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, 8 May (WAKH)—A Palestinian official has declared that the restoration of PLO-Syrian relations to normal depends on several measures which Damascus will adopt soon in light of the talks between PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and Hafiz al-Asad.

Bassam Abu Shakir, 'Arafat's adviser for information affairs, said the PLO expects the release of 3,000 Palestinian detainees held by Syria either in Syrian prisons or in prisons under Syria's control in Lebanon.

Al-Sharif added that the PLO expects a relaxation in the issue of rebuilding refugee camps, especially Sabra, Shatila, and Burj al-Barajinah.

In an interview with press agency correspondents last night, Abu Sharif emphasized that achieving these two preliminary acts will strengthen the bridges of confidence between the PLO and Syria.

He said that Syrian-Palestinian talks will continue with the aim of translating into practice that which prevailed during the meeting between Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat].

However, Bassam Abu Sharif did not specify a date for the visit of Faruq Qaddumi, alias Abu al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department, to Damascus for that purpose. He said the meeting will take place soon.

The PLO Executive Committee had recommended continued contacts between the Palestinian and Syrian leaders to restore relations to what they used to be.

The Palestinian official expressed hope that Syria will seek to end all the attacks launched by the dissident groups on the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps in the past few days.

He said: Undoubtedly, such attacks create a negative atmosphere among our people, particularly as the inhabitants of the camps expect the Syrian forces surrounding the camps to provide them with protection.

A Palestinian official had indirectly criticized the Syrian stand on the attacks by elements affiliated with Colonel Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah] against the inhabitants of the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps.

In a statement 2 days ago he said: Agent groups are using their gun emplacements in an area between Tyre and Qabr Shammun and are attacking our refugee camps in the areas of the forces supporting the camp.

Abu Sharif says the calm that prevailed in the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps yesterday can be a sign of Syria's positive response to the direct Palestinian appeal or to the appeal through Libya or Algeria.

He said: We hope such calm will be a prelude to preventing the repetition of such attempts and attacks.

The Palestinian official strongly denied that the mass uprising in the occupied territory was affected by the assassination of Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces.

He said: "Following the martyrdom of the leader Abu Jihad, Zionist forces unleashed all their trumpets within the occupied territory and in the world and adopted stringent repressive measures to prevent journalists and correspondents from covering developments in the occupied territory and the Gaza Strip with the aim of influencing and misleading public opinion about the uprising."

He emphasized that the facts prove the contrary and that daily events confirm the uprising is constantly escalating at a time when the campaign of Zionist and racist terrorism against the Palestinian people has escalated.

He said that according to documented lists in the PLO's possession, 338 martyrs fell, 9,500 civilians were injured, and 17,500 citizens were detained in the past 6 months of the uprising.

He declared: We place at the disposal of the media, which are searching for the facts, comprehensive and accurate lists of the names of the martyrs and wounded and the places where they were martyred or wounded and the times, as well as the locations where Palestinian citizens were detained.

In conclusion Abu Sharif said the uprising is proceeding according to the plans decided by the Unified National Leadership and according to that leadership's statements, of which 15 have been issued so far.

Abu Sharif said that the Palestinian people who are accustomed to continuing their struggle whatever the losses, are determined to continue that struggle until they achieve all their goals in establishing their free state on Palestinian soil.

Abu Sharif reaffirmed that the PLO does not want to be drawn into peripheral battles that aim to dissipate Palestinian efforts. He said the PLO expects that Lebanon in particular and the Arab region in general will this summer be the target of feverish attempts by all the enemies of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation to strike at the PLO.

Abu Sharif said the present stage of the uprising is the stage that precedes national independence. He declared: "We are at the threshold of such independence. The experience of peoples shows that the stages that precede the great victory are those in which there are feverish imperialist attempts to prevent such a victory."

Reported Theft of Al-Wazir's Papers Denied

LD0905184988 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1602 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] A responsible Palestinian source has commented on the report published by the magazine U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, whch claimed that the assassins of Commander Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] had seized important documents from his house.

The source said: The magazine's claim is absurd and raises the question of its credibility and the accuracy of its sources. It has fallen into the trap of deceptive propaganda.

The murderers who stormed the house of Commander Abu Jihad and assassinated him did not take any papers, whether important or not. This was not due to the murderers' unwillingness to take papers from Abu Jihad's house, but because the working papers relating to the tasks of the martyr and commander Abu Jihad were kept at his headquarters, in other words, in Baghdad, as was well-known. Brother Abu Jihad had transferred his headquarters to Baghdad after the Jordanian authorities expelled him from Jordan.

Moreover, the absurd thing about the report published in the aforementioned magazine is the total ignorance of the nature of the work carried out by the martyr Abu Jihad, because when he was attacked in his house in Tunis he was on a visit to his family home and not on a working mission.

Fatah Dissidents Issue Statement on Clashes

JN071947 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1643 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] The Provisional Leadership of the Palestine National Liberation Movement-Fatah has issued a political statement on the events which took place in the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps near Beirut over the past few days.

The statement accused the Palestinian right of inventing these events in an attempt to implement a sabotage plan in Lebanon against the national Lebanese and Palestinian projects.

The statement said the Palestinian right brought the situation in Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah to a head to establish a base for a sabotage role in Lebanon.

The Palestinian right is seeking to prove that it is worthy of participating in the proposed liquidationist plans because its previous attempts could not qualify it to become an acceptable party to these plans. Furthermore, the Palestinian right also wants to dissociate itself from all pan-Arab and national commitments.

Algeria

Commentary Views Upcoming Shultz Mideast Mission

LD0805091488 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 8 May 88

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz will return in June to the Middle East to resume his peace mission. Never before has the U.S. Administration been so committed to its initiatives as it is today.

This commitment and persistence is both puzzling and suspicious. Let us try to exclude emotions and analyze the new situation.

The new situation is characterized by a number of factors:

The first factor which has altered and perhaps tipped the balance of power in favor of the Arab nation in general, and the Palestinian cause in particular, is the continuation of the Palestinian people's uprising against the Zionist occupation and the fact that it is in its 6th month.

There is nothing to indicate that the uprising will stop before the Palestinian people have achieved their full rights. There is even Palestinian insistence that the uprising will continue and escalate until it begins its eighth phase.

The eighth phase is one of using weapons if the international community and countries of the world do not move to confront Israeli crimes. It does not need great intelligence to know that the administrations of Tel Aviv and Washington are more definitely afraid of this phase than Westerners in general are afraid of AIDS these days.

The second factor is the policy of international detente, the features of which became clearer after the Soviet Union and the United States reached agreement on a number of complicated issues, including the treaty to remove medium-range nuclear missiles.

They might sign another treaty during the next Gorbachev-Reagan summit reducing strategic weapons by about 50-percent. [passage omitted]

Real international detente will remain incomplete unless the Palestinian issue, which is the essence of the Middle East conflict and a source of international tension and anxiety, is settled.

Washington wants to bring about not a just and permanent peace, but a U.S. peace. Washington's difficulties are more with its ally Israel than with Arab countries.

In his recent visit to a number of Arab capitals, George Shultz found a single answer corresponding with the will of the international community, namely, to hold an international peace conference on the Middle East with the participation of the concerned parties, including the PLO on an equal footing with the other parties, and the permanent members of the UN Security Council.

This formula is accepted by the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union also approves of George Shultz's mission, but it has advised him to adopt a balanced policy which takes into consideration the interests of the Palestinians and Arabs, not only those of the Israelis.

Therefore, from this point of view it seems that the mission of the U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz is not a conspiracy against the Palestinian and Arab cause.

The answer: This mission becomes a conspiracy if treason occurs among the Arab ranks or if the Arabs do not make good use of the new situation which has tilted in their favor, because with this move Washington is trying to rescue its ally Israel and Israel is in a stifling crisis because of the continuation of the Palestinian people's uprising.

If this uprising continues the Tel Aviv administration will lose its freedom of movement and maneuver and whatever winning cards it has.

Briefs

Agreement With Czechoslovakia

Algeria and Czechoslovakia signed a contract on aeronautical assembly and construction today at the Transportation Ministry in Algiers. More precisely, the contract is for the construction under license of about 100 10-seater and 4-seater airplanes. These are the first of a range that could be extended to agricultural and commercial airplanes. The assembly and construction will begin at the end of this year at Blida by a company that will be set up very soon within the framework of the autonomy of companies. The contract between the Algerian Transportation Ministry and the Czechoslovak company Omnipol anticipates a rate of integration of 50 percent by the end of the contract and a rate of production of 30 aircraft per year by the end of this period. [Text] [*LD0805020088 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 7 MAY 88*]

Egypt

UAE Official Meets Mubarak, Departs for Home

NC0805113888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] Cairo, 8 May (MENA)—This morning, President Husni Mubarak received Rashid 'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs. The meeting was also attended by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Usamah al-Baz,

first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and head of the President's Office for Political Affairs; and Hamad Hilal, UAE ambassador in Cairo.

Al-Nu'aymi said that during the meeting he handed President Mubarak a message from UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan. In a statement made prior to his departure for home from Cairo this afternoon, the UAE official stated that President Mubarak had handed him a reply message for Shaykh Zayid.

It is recalled that the UAE minister of state for foreign affairs paid a lightning visit of several hours to Libya yesterday.

He was seen off at the airport by Dr 'Abd al-Majid.

'Abd al-Majid Briefs Mubarak, Meets Al-Hasan

NC0805194888 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that he submitted a report today to President Mubarak on the outcome of his talks in Somalia and Saudi Arabia.

He also conveyed a message to him from Somali President Siad Barre in reply to Mubarak's earlier message.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid also met today with Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that the talks dealt with developments concerning the Palestinian issue and stressed that there is a common interest in the need to follow up on these developments. He added that the meeting is part of the process of continuous consultations between Egypt and the PLO.

State Minister Makramallah Returns From Jordan

NC0905130788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 May 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 9 May (MENA)—Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, returned to Cairo this afternoon from Amman at the conclusion of a 4-day visit to Jordan. [passage omitted]

March on Israeli Borders Set for 29 May

NC0905073888 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] The Egyptian National Committee [Al-Lajnah al-Wataniayah al-Misriyah] has announced that peaceful marches will be held on the borders of the four Arab states surrounding Israel on 29 May as a show of solidarity with the residents of West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The committee said that a march will take place in the Rafah area on the Egyptian-Israeli border with the participation of approximately 2,000 Palestinian deportees. At the same time, three other marches will take place on the Lebanese, Syrian, and Jordanian borders.

'Arafat Sends Message to Meeting on Uprising

NC0905153488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1505 GMT 9 May 88

[Excerpts] Cairo, 9 May (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, opened today the first Arab trade union conference in support of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. Trade union delegations from 13 Arab countries are participating in the 3-day conference at the invitation of the Egyptian Trade Union Federation.

In his opening speech 'Abd al-Majid said that today, 9 May, has special significance as the courageous uprising enters its 6th month, maintaining its momentum despite suppression and siege beyond human endurance.

The Palestinian people, he noted, have never stopped offering martyrs or suffering the pains of torture, arrest, and deportation from the homeland. They provide unequivocal proof to the entire world that their aspirations to freedom and their determination to achieve their nationalistic goals cannot be negotiated.

Thus, they have gained the world's respect and appreciation. They have returned their legitimate and just cause to its foremost place among the world's contemporary issues, he added. [passage omitted]

In a message addressed to the conference, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said that holding the conference in Cairo, the capital of the Arabs, under the slogan of backing the heroic Palestinian uprising and ending the Iraq-Iran war, undoubtedly demonstrates great support by the Arab workers for our Palestinian people in their glorious war against the Israeli occupiers.

In his message, which was read on his behalf by Hani al-Hasan, a Fatah Central Committee member, 'Arafat said: The heroic uprising of our people has achieved a great deal so far.

An international plot tried to ignore our cause and make the occupation permanent (?in the hope) of achieving coexistence between the army of the occupiers and the settlers on one hand, and our people on the other.

But, the uprising imposed the Palestine issue on international circles and declared to the entire world that peace and security can come to the region only through acknowledgement of the Palestinian people's inalienable rights.

Foremost of these are the right to return and to exercise self-determination by establishing their independent state on their national soil, under the leadership of the PLO, their sole, legitimate representative.

'Arafat added: Our people have surprised the world with their solidarity. Not a single child, old man, woman, man, rich man, worker, farmer, intellectual, or student has failed to contribute to this uprising, in a manner that underlines the valuable lesson that confronting occupying aggressors is the only way to achieve national unity.

'Arafat expressed the Palestinian people's appreciation for the role of the Egyptian president, government, and people in backing the blessed Palestinian uprising and the great Iraqi people.

He stressed that the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO are determined to continue their heroic and just struggle to attain their national objectives. He said that extending support for the Palestinian uprising is not limited to its material benefits, because the world is watching to see how brothers will act with brothers.

He added: It is no secret that the strength of the Arabs lies in their unity. The world will look on your support for the uprising as a declaration of the unity of the Arab position and a loud voice that must be considered when positions are adopted. [passage omitted]

Peace Treaty Opposition Law 'Unconstitutional'
NC0805200788 Paris AFP in English 1409 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] Cairo, May 8 (AFP)—An Egyptian court has ruled unconstitutional a law preventing new political parties here from opposition to the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, press reports said Sunday.

"International treaties impose constraints on their signatories but have no immunity that prevents citizens from criticizing them," the court ruled.

Current legislation in Egypt prevents any individual actively opposed to the 1979 Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty from serving as either a founder or leader of a new political party.

The legislation was implemented during the tenure of the former Egyptian president, Anwar al-Sadat, who signed the treaty with Menachem Begin, then prime minister of Israel.

Trial of Police for 'Persecution' Continues
NC0905164188 Cairo MENA in English 1600 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] Cairo, May 9 (MENA)—The Court of Assizes adjourned until tomorrow a case in which a number of police officers are on trial on a charge of having persecuted defendants in the Al-Jihad organisation.

The court today heard a number of counsels for the defence of the officers and will continue to hear their pleadings tomorrow. The defence said there was contradiction between the views of extremist Islamic jama'at (groups) and tolerant Islam. The views of the extremist groups did harm to Islam during the past ten years.

Counsels for the defence of the accused officers said the enemies of Islam abroad supported the extremist groups in different parts of the world which did harm to Islam.

Counsels for the defence said the officers had only done their duty by apprehending members of the Al-Jihad who committed the acts which took place following the assassination of former President Anwar al-Sadat. They stormed some police stations and killed a number of police officers.

The accused raised claims about persecution three years after they had been apprehended, the counsels for defence said.

Cargo Ship Sinks in Suez Gulf; No Casualties
NC0905051788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2300 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] Suez, 8 May (MENA)—The Egyptian cargo ship "Al-'Abdui" has sunk at the entrance to (Al-Dominki) port in the Suez Gulf, which is south of Ra's Sidr in northern Sinai Governorate. The crew of 17 sailors has been saved.

Major General 'Adil Anwar, director of Suez Port security, received a radio signal today from the border guard intelligence service reporting the ship's sinking. The "Al-'Abdui" was on its way from Bur Tawfiq to Port Sudan and Jeddah carrying 1,746 heads of cattle, 10 tons of medicines, 1,200 tons of aluminium, 1,200 tons of canned goods, and some books.

The ship's captain, Muhammad Rabi' Murshidi, managed to save the crew, who used lifeboats.

The authorities concerned have commenced an investigation to determine the reasons for the ship's sinking.

'Abd al-Majid Interviewed on Foreign Affairs

JN051057 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic
3 May 88 pp 1, 21

[Interview with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by Muhammad Mustafa at the Foreign Ministry in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Mustafa] How does Egypt view the meeting between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat?

['Abd al-Majid] In line with its constant desire to maintain Arab unity and its clear policy of rallying the ranks, we believe the meeting is important in view of the call for a strong and cohesive Arab front.

At the same time, Egypt also believes in the need to respect the independence of Palestinian decisionmaking, and we hope the decisionmakers will adopt stands compatible with the interests of the Palestine question.

[Mustafa] How does Egypt view the assassination of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir]?

['Abd al-Majid] We have strongly condemned that criminal action. It is very clear that it is Israel that stands to benefit from the crime and that it is Israel that arranged it.

Although there are those who claim there is no decisive proof of Israel's involvement, all the evidence points to an Israeli role in the operation. We believe that despite the abstention of the United States, the Security Council resolution adopted with the unanimous vote of 14 states is an important resolution.

From its preamble, it is clear the resolution is based on the letter sent by the Tunisian foreign minister to the UN secretary general holding Israel responsible for the operation. The resolution supports Tunisia's position that Tunisian sovereignty must be respected. [passage omitted]

[Mustafa] Before we discuss developments in our region, particularly developments connected with the Palestine question, proposed plans, the Gulf war, and the serious escalation caused by the intransigent Iranian stand opposing peace endeavors, can you throw light upon the present features of Egyptian policy, in general, and Egyptian policy in the Arab region, in particular? What exactly does Egypt seek to achieve?

['Abd al-Majid] Egyptian policy on both the Arab and international levels has relied on a number of constants that gave it the following distinctive features:

—Mutual respect for the policies and positions of other states. Just as Egypt does not interfere in the affairs of others, it also does not accept interference in its affairs.

—Building open channels of communication with friends and using these channels to coordinate and consult for the sake of the common interest.

—Shunning vituperation in the media and bombastic and empty statements.

—Credibility in word and deed to gain the confidence of the various parties, on the international, Arab, or domestic level.

—Placing the goal of peace at the top of the list of priorities in Egyptian policy—achieving peace through international conferences and organizations, bilateral contacts, or summit meetings.

The leading component of this goal is the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East within the framework of the legitimate rights of our Palestinian brothers and Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territory, and bringing about an end to the Iraq-Iran war and Iranian withdrawal from Iraqi territory.

—Bilateral cooperation with other countries, in particular, Arab countries, to develop resources, achieve prosperity for the peoples of the world, promote human and cultural contacts among them, and defend values and principles.

[Mustafa] Several questions are being asked in the Arab arena, in the media, and in political circles, on the current activation of the Middle East question. President Mubarak has put forward an Egyptian plan.

Notwithstanding the acceptance it gained on the Arab and international levels, some saw in it an attempt to divest the Palestinian uprising of its content. What is your view?

What was behind President Mubarak's visit to Washington, and what took place behind closed doors? Could there be a link between the president's Arab tour and his European-U.S. tour? Was he carrying an Arab solution to the Palestine question?

['Abd al-Majid] Let me first arrange the cards of Egypt's effective role in bringing about a Middle East peace within the framework of Palestinian rights:

—Egypt's move in that direction is part of its national responsibility for a peace that achieves Palestinian rights, and is in keeping with its Arab responsibility to achieve security and stability in this tense region, in view of Egypt's influential role with all the parties concerned.

The Palestine question has been and continues to be a priority issue in Egyptian politics. Accordingly, this question is foremost among President Husni Mubarak's

concerns in all his contacts and tours, including his Arab tour that was followed by his European-U.S. tour, which led to the current international interest in the Palestine question.

Egypt views the peaceful Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories as a strong and decisive expression of an Arab people's rejection of occupation and of practices that conflict with human principles.

What makes this uprising influential is that despite the lengthy years of occupation the insistence on the right to the land has continued even with the second generation. Consequently, it is useless for Israel to violate legitimacy and the rights of the Palestinian people.

—Hence, Egyptian ideas have come to maintain the continuity of the uprising and also to utilize it to move the concerned parties toward a just and comprehensive peace.

Thus, President Mubarak's ideas did not empty the uprising of its content, but supported it and activated it in the international arena. He who says otherwise is ignorant of realities.

—What took place behind closed doors in Washington was the same as what Egypt clearly and frankly announced. In his contacts with U.S. President Reagan and all other officials, President Mubarak was shouldering his pan-Arab responsibility when he demanded that efforts be made for a just peace.

He also urged contacts with all concerned parties, including Syria. Therefore, I can say that although the Palestine question has been absent from world concerns for some time, it has once again become the leading issue of interest after the uprising and the accompanying effective Egyptian moves.

—Regarding the president's tours, both of them are linked by the president's consultations with his Arab brothers and world leaders on the same obejctive, namely, the achievement of peace, which needs no authorization.

[Mustafa] President Mubarak's visit to Washington was followed by Shultz' tour of the region and the declaration of U.S. peace proposals. What is Egypt's true stand on these proposals, and can they lead to the convening of an international conference?

Do you believe that the U.S. stand on dialogue with Palestinians may change? What stance do you expect following Israel's rejection and intransigence? Do you believe that 99 percent of the cards are in America's hand?

['Abd al-Majid] Returning interest in the Middle East issue is an achievement on the path to a solution. The current U.S. move toward peace is part of this achievement.

Frankly speaking, Egypt finds numerous positive points in the U.S. proposals, which should be encouraged, and there should also be maintenance of the current international momentum toward peace.

Despite the importance of discussing some remarks on these proposals, we believe that by dialogue and continued contacts an appropriate formula to pave the way for an international conference in which the Palestinian brothers should participate can be attained.

Therefore, a continuous U.S.-Palestinian dialogue is required and important because a major concerned party cannot be ignored.

We expect a lengthy coming phase, which will require patience, solidarity, Arab cohesion, strong presentation of rationale, and solid confrontation of maneuvers. In the coming phase it will be important to maintain the momentum toward an Arab stand supporting a just peace within the framework of legitimate Palestinian rights.

As for the cards involved in the issue, all concerned parties should abide by them, including the important U.S. role, particularly in dealing with Israel's intransigence.

Regarding Egyptian ideas, they were not designed to offer a final and comprehensive solution, but to exploit the political momentum resulting from the uprising and also to get things moving toward a solution and to lay the groundwork for an international conference.

I believe these ideas did their job. I would like to say that it is time for us to not only react to various international positions, be they U.S., Israeli, or otherwise, but we should also take the initiative and make contributions.

[Mustafa] What part do the Soviets have to play? Why did President Mubarak's tours not include the Soviet Union, which holds one of the important keys to a solution?

['Abd al-Majid] The Soviet Union is one of the important players in the international conference. It can have an important role in coordinating positions and in moving toward peace.

I want to emphasize that contacts between us and the Soviet Union never stopped during this past period. Envoys meet, and there are contacts, consultations, and exchanges of view.

The Soviet Union is also in touch with the United States and with the parties concerned. As for President Mubarak's tours, there are itineraries and priorities that are governed by political ties and assessments of international developments.

I have received an invitation to visit Moscow and I will be pleased to make the visit after Ramadan and meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze. [passage omitted]

[Mustafa] What is the significance of President Mubarak's recent visit to Sudan? Was there any connection between the visit and what is happening on the Sudanese border?

['Abd al-Majid] Egypt and Sudan are bound by a common destiny. A threat to Sudan is a threat to Egypt, and whatever benefits Sudan also benefits Egypt. Our relations are very special, and have no connection with temporary changes.

Our relations are governed by a continuing strategy based on fraternal cooperation, mutual respect for each other's policy, and constant consultation and coordination.

Egypt believes that any threat to Sudan's security is a direct threat to its own security, and strongly supports the brothers in the south against such a threat.

[Mustafa] Egypt's civilized conduct in the case of the four Libyan aircraft that landed in Egypt gave the impression in the Arab world that there are signs of a change in Egyptian-Libyan relations.

Then Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's speech and the Egyptian response raised questions once again. Where are relations between the two countries heading?

['Abd al-Majid] Egypt has repeatedly declared that it hopes that Libya will reconsider and adopt a sincere and consistent stand in its relations with its Arab sisters and neighbors in particular.

The policy of one-upmanship does not benefit anyone and does not encourage confidence in genuine fraternal relations. [passage omitted]

[Mustafa] Somalia is linked to Egypt and the Arab states by historic and Arab ties. How do you view the problems of the Horn of Africa and their effect on Somalia, particularly with regard to Ethiopia, a neighbor that is friendly with Egypt?

['Abd al-Majid] We were pleased with the good start on the road to resolving the problems of our neighbors in the Horn of Africa. Egypt warmly welcomes the agreement reached between Somalia and Ethiopia during the Djibouti summit on restoring diplomatic relations.

We hope the agreement will herald a final agreement within a framework of good-neighborliness to solve border problems and develop bilateral cooperation. I will be visiting Somalia soon and I will lead our country's delegation to the meetings of the Egyptian-Somali joint higher committee.

I hope it will be an opportunity to discuss the matter and what Egypt could do to bring the views of the two friendly countries, Somalia and Ethiopia, closer.

[Mustafa] What developments do you expect following the Israeli prime minister's threats to strike at missile bases in fraternal Saudi Arabia?

['Abd al-Majid] Egypt's stand in the face of Israeli threats to fraternal Saudi Arabia is clear and firm. Egypt immediately held contacts with President Reagan and the parties concerned.

We pointed out the danger such an Israeli stand poses to peace efforts in the region and to the region's security and stability, particularly as Shamir's statements are irresponsible toward both his country and international norms of behavior.

Egypt has emphasized that it will not allow any aggression against fraternal Saudi Arabia. We stand very firmly by Saudi Arabia. If Israel should contemplate such an aggression it will have to bear all its consequences.

We believe the United States shares our anxiety for the consequences of such behavior, and it is bound to oppose such conduct, which threatens regional peace and security and has no legitimate justification. [passage omitted]

AL-AHRAM Editor Discusses Press Freedom

JN090826 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
6 May 88 pp 1, 3

[Article by Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi': "Egyptian Press—Horizons, Concerns, and Future: Do We Have Freedom of the Press?"]

[Excerpts] Freedom of the press in Egypt is of interest to many foreign and domestic circles for different reasons. This subject has always been the center of argument on which opinions and interpretations differed, as on the question of Islamic jurisprudence.

Some people see freedom of the press as an established fact and a reality that is unprecedented in the history of Egypt. Others see it as false and a formality fettered by chains.

Each side has its own proof and evidence, of course, with the simple difference being that those who deny such freedom express their opinions frankly and publicly, without censorship, in the Egyptian press itself.

Nobody objects to their opinions, even when they are contrary to the truth and are punishable under the penal code.

Isn't this already one of the ruses concerning the freedom of the press in Egypt?

Before we go into any further discussion of the freedom of the press, which is the pet subject of both supporters and opponents of the regime in Egypt, I say without exaggeration that the status of the press in Egypt is by all standards unique in the history of the Egyptian national press since its inception, that is, before the July 1952 revolution.

Why? My reasons for believing this are numerous. Before 1952, the Egyptian press was a party press enjoying a certain degree of freedom of opinion that nobody can deny. But, it was also subject to prosecution and confiscation; sometimes appearing strong and articulate and at other times weak and subdued.

So, what we had then was not a national press, but newspapers, which were independent of political parties and owned by individuals, groups of individuals, or companies.

While the government, society as a whole, or legislative institutions did not exercise any ownership rights, there was still a certain degree of government interference in the independence of these papers through what was then known as secret funding.

Funds were either paid to some of the proprietors of those papers or to a number of their chief editors and columnists. This was all revealed by the revolution in documents after 1952.

So what actually existed then was limited, if not superficial, independence, which is completely different from the status of the national press today.

In my opinion, the national press today, even though published under the proprietorship of the Consultative Council, is in practice still independent in the sense that proprietorship is completely separated from the administration of the papers, whether in the journalistic or financial aspect.

For example, the Consultative Council cannot decide which item or opinion to publish in the newspapers. Nor can it stop any item or opinion from being published. [passage omitted]

It is necessary to point out certain facts regarding the background of today's Egyptian press, that is, the peculiarities of the situation of the press in Egypt today.

As I have said, we are facing a new situation which did not exist before. There are the national newspapers, which the opposition newspapers call the government papers because they are owned by the Consultative Council, and the opposition papers which are owned by the parties.

This has created a situation in which the opposition papers face the national or government papers as they call them. This means that the government, through its so-called newspapers, is facing party newspapers which are completely free from its authority.

Therefore, we must admit that there is freedom to establish party newspapers to confront the government or the non-opposition newspapers. This means there is freedom of the press.

If the government wanted to monopolize the press it would ban the party newspapers directly through seizure, or indirectly by hounding and impeding them, and creating circumstances to ban their continuation, distribution, or even their printing. Is this correct?

First, I want to discuss the following: Are the national papers really government papers? In my opinion this description is arbitrary, incorrect, and unrealistic. The government has no authority over the management of the national newspapers and the government has never prevented an opinion or news item from being published in the national papers, at least since President Mubarak assumed power and responsibility.

On the contrary, the national papers daily criticize many aspects of the government's official policies in the fields of economy, education, sociology, and foreign and Arab policy.

The national papers also publish articles by writers from every political and ideological trend, including writers and leaders of the opposition parties themselves, without any supervision.

Second, the government, as in all countries, is the main source of news for the national and party newspapers alike in light of its weight and effective departments in society.

If we compare AL-AHRAM, AL-AKHBAR, and AL-JUMHURIYAH in terms of news, with newspapers in the capitalist, socialist, or Third World countries, such as THE NEW YORK TIMES, HERALD TRIBUNE, LE FIGARO, LE MONDE, PRAVDA, or any newspaper in the world, we will find that the source of news is the government.

Otherwise, a blackout would shroud the work of the government, thus harming the view the public and society has of what the government does and preventing society's control and criticism of the negative actions of this policy.

No earnest party press can ignore government news, achievements, and projects. Otherwise, it would conceal from its readers the information necesssary for them to form an opinion.

Hence, the government is a common source for the national and party newspapers alike. In fact, we see that some ministries, ministers, and officials in a number of governmental departments do not welcome and even close their doors to some journalists working for the opposition papers, thus depriving them of the opportunity to obtain information and news.

We completely reject this and do not recognize it. The Constitution and laws do not deprive journalists of the freedom to obtain and publish information.

To be fair, logical, and legal the party papers should not color news items or publish incomplete or distorted news because this will deprive them of objectivity and credibility and will encroach on the sacred right of the readers to full knowledge.

This also applies to the national papers because they too are required to publish news and information about the government's policies and plans objectively and without coloring or dressing them up.

The national papers should seek complete objectivity because this is the sacred right of the readers. This is an important point which should be a cardinal rule for the national and party papers in dealing with news and information derived from the government's sources and organizations.

Another point remains; that is, the relationship of the party and national newspapers with the state. In our current situation, the state should give equal support to party and national papers in certain cases.

By this I mean the state's responsibility in subsidizing the price of the paper, which has increased drastically in 1 year from $400 to $700. At the same time, the rate of exchange for the dollar against the Egyptian pound has increased from 135 piasters to 225 piasters.

In my opinion, this subsidy must be given by the state to both party and national newspapers. The state also pays through the Consultative Council, the legal proprietor of the national papers, a financial subsidy to the majority of the party papers.

The Consultative Council also helps all party papers by providing the necessary journalistic expertise from the editorial boards of the national papers to run the party papers.

In every case, the national papers pay the salaries of those colleagues. Therefore, the talk about discrimination in the state's relationship with national and party papers is imprecise and untrue.

The talk also that the national papers are government papers committed to the policies of the ruling National Democratic Party, is also imprecise. When the ruling party wanted a vehicle to express its policies, it did not resort to the national papers.

It published its own paper to be its mouthpiece, just as the other parties did. This paper is a party paper. It belongs to the ruling party and is totally separate from the national papers.

So, why all the confusion on the independence of the national papers from the ruling party and state ownership?

This confusion is due to the fact that certain officials consider the national papers pro-government. As such they think these papers should defend them and stop criticizing their behavior.

This was rejected by all national papers. These papers adhered to their right to praise what they consider positive achievements of the government and state, and to criticize what they consider to be negative practices.

In my opinion, the real problem is that the party papers are making an unclear and inexcusable mistake. In order to affirm the absolute soundness of the lines, positions, opinions, and programs of their parties, these papers always have a gloomy view of the achievements of the state, the authorities, or government.

They do not see any bright spots in the picture. This prevents them from forming an objective view of matters, which distorts the freedom of the press. This gives rise to a lurking watchfulness between the party papers and government entities, national papers, and the ruling party's paper.

This prevents constructive dialogue between the opposition and national papers on the one hand, and society and the state on the other.

If the criterion of a free press is that no official, no matter how high-ranking, is above questioning and criticism, then we can confidently and convincingly say that this is happening in Egypt.

The party press has criticized. At times, it has criticized some officials by methods and expressions alien to professional journalism. They even went so far as to criticize the policies and positions of President Mubarak himself.

This has never happened before, either before or after 1952. Still, the president did not use his powers to suppress this criticism or to take administrative measures against the journalist, writer, or paper concerned. This is a very important indicator of whether or not freedom of the press really exists.

In the national papers, the criticism of many of the government's projects and policies are published without sensitivity. The difference here is that due, perhaps, to their deep traditions and firm stands in journalism, the national papers do not criticize for the sake of criticism.

They view matters from both the positive and negative side. They criticize and praise to the same degree. They view things more comprehensively and evaluate matters as positive or negative. [passage omitted]

Libya

UK, U.S. Accused of Anti-Arab 'Conspiracy'

LD0905182488 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] Informed British news sources recently disclosed that there is firm cooperation between British secret services and the Zionist intelligence service, Mosad, in carrying out a campaign of Palestinian assassinations.

The same sources stressed that the Mosad is assisted by the British services in carrying out its criminal operations against Palestinians, and Arabs in general, within the framework of the Zionist colonialist alliance against the present and future of the Arab nation.

THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH reports that [word indistinct] arms for the Zionist intelligence spread in the majority of British towns. It thus [word indistinct] the assistance and experience of the British, which has raised a widespread uproar among the media inside and outside Britain.

British intelligence and the CIA are known to have assisted the Zionist Mosad in its criminal operations against Arab citizens. This assistance recently resulted in the assassinations of Naji al-'Ali, a Palestinian Arab artist, and Palestinian struggler Khalil al-Wazir, Abu Jihad, on 13 April in a Tunis suburb.

Inquiries revealed that the two operations were carried out with the assistance and backing of British intelligence services and the CIA, which enabled the Zionist Mosad gangs to enter Tunisia and assassinate Palestinian struggler Abu Jihad.

Additionally, an increasing number of similar [word indistinct] joint criminal Zionist-British-U.S. operations have been carried out since the Zionist entity was transplanted into occupied Palestine in conformity with the stipulations of the accursed 1917 Balfour Declaration and the contents of the 1897 Basel Document, which stipulated the creation of the Zionist movement and the later establishment of one of its branches in the Palestinian town of Haifa.

The liquidation of prominent Palestinian leaders was among the main, central objectives when the Zionist movement began. These objectives met with the support of Western countries, foremost of which was Britain, which is considered the party primarily responsible for transplanting the foreign Zionist entity into occupied Palestine.

Thus, the disclosure by informed sources of the close cooperation between Zionist intelligence and the British secret services is really another episode in the British-Zionist conspiracy against the Arab people's cause in Palestine.

It is an attempt to eliminate the Palestinian strugglers to realize the dreams of the Zionists and to implement the colonialist schemes which serve and protect the Zionist entity.

The method of assassinations (?carried out) by Zionist intelligence, the British secret services, and the CIA—which is the means of executing the imperialist and Zionist policy against Palestinians, and Arabs in general—is (?proof) of the alliance existing between these parties, and the unity of their inhuman stand against the Arab people in occupied Palestine.

'Fierce Conflict' Breaks Out Among Habre Forces

LD0905224788 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] News from Chad indicates that a fierce conflict has broken out in the ranks of agent Habre's forces in the Bardai region. Reports say that there was an exchange of fire in the ranks of agent Habre's forces which then had to ask for help from the French forces stationed in Faya-Largeau. These French units went to Bardai in order to stop the dispute within the ranks of his forces.

It is expected that the disputing parties will seek shelter with the GUNT forces, which are led by Goukouni Oueddei.

Morocco

Algerian Attempt 'To Exploit' UN Head 'Exposed'

LD0905195188 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 May 88

[Excerpt] Rabat, 9 May (MAP)—AL-'ALAM, organ of the Moroccan Istiqlal Party, has exposed Algeria's conspiracies aimed at obstructing the referendum in the Sahara and its hopeless conspiracies to exploit UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The newspaper wrote in its commentary today that Algeria had tried to drag the UN secretary general to Tindouf to meet in the imaginary "capital of the Saharan

state"—which is on other people's land—with the president of this "republic" and to put it on record that the UN secretary general recognizes the imaginary "state" on its [as received] land.

After that, Algeria hoped to lead him along the same path it had led Edem Kodjo [former OAU secretary general] in order to have him devote a seat to the imaginary "state" in the United Nations.

The newspaper stressed that Perez de Cuellar refused to be trapped and cancelled his visit to Algeria, preferring to postpone his good offices rather than sully his position in the dirt of exploitation. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Al-Mahdi To Announce New Government 11 May

JN1011121 Khartoum SUNA in English 1015 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] Khartoum, May 10 (SUNA)—Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is due to announce the formation of his new government tomorrow (Wednesday); sources at the parties participating in the upcoming government said yesterday.

Member of the National Islamic Front [NIF] Politbureau Dr 'Ali al-Haj said the portfolios given to his party would include the attorney general, industry, internal trade, cooperation and supply, and refugees and displaced people affairs.

He added that the fifth ministry for NIF would either be telecommunications or the energy.

Dr al-Haj said the National Islamic Front had submitted its nominations for the ministerial and regional government posts to the premier.

He said leaders of the national accord parties would met today to settle the issue of the Supreme Council.

On the other hand Al-Ummah Party Politbureau member Dr Adam Madibu revealed that the dispute over the interior and foreign affairs portfolios had been also resolved by giving the interior to the Al-Ummah and the foreign affairs would go to the Democratic Unionist.

Madibu went on to say that the representation of southerners in the new government would be confined to the parties which support the national government.

The central ministries of the south include the local government, transport and communication, animal resources, labour, and social insurance.

AL-BA'TH Interviews Taha al-Mirghani

PM1005102588 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 28 Apr 88 p3

[Report on an interview with Taha al-Mirghani, secretary general of the Sudanese Nasirite Arab Socialist Party, by 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kafri; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] Taha al-Mirghani, secretary general of the Sudanese Nasirite Arab Socialist Party has said that the Syrian stand is progressive and he understands the facts behind the Arab-Zionist conflict. [passage omitted]

In reply to a question he said: In the past stage, we in the National Progressive Front could not secure the political presence we sought for numerous reasons, the most important of which are:

1—Some progressive forces did not join the front because they thought that uniting progressive forces within the front would prompt right-wing forces to unite. Such thoughts were mistaken because right-wing forces would not wait for left-wing forces to unite before they themselves united.

The interests of right-wing forces are already united in the social forces they represent and through local, Arab, and international links.

2— Right-wing forces managed, by means of their control over transitional institutions, to reorganize the political situation in order to monopolize power. Besides, right-wing forces possess huge political and intelligence resources with which they have been able to make extensive moves; whereas the National Progressive Front does not possess all this.

The forces now participating in the National Progressive Front are as follows: the Nasirite Arab Socialist Party; the Sudanese wing of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; the Democratic Nationalist Forces Union; the Sudanese Communist Party—Revolutionary Command; and the Sudanese African Congress, which is a southern party. [passage omitted]

Al-Mirghani added: The charter of the front was signed in January 1986, the month during which the elections were held. The front's most important objectives are:

1—To establish a sound democracy encompassing both political and social freedoms.

2—To struggle to destroy the capitalist system and to follow the path of socialist development.

3—To establish and develop strong relations with progressive forces in the Arab world and Africa, and with the liberation movements of the world.

There are also other objectives such as eliminating illiteracy, developing education, and making primary education compulsory.

In reply to another question Al-Mirghani said: The front's position toward the central cause of the Arab nation, that is, the Palestinian cause, is principled and clear.

It supports the just and legitimate struggle of the Palestinian Arab people and their right to recover their territory and establish their own independent state.

The front adopts a clear stand on southern Sudan, namely, that the problem of the south must be resolved peacefully via dialogue and the national constitutional conference in which all Sudanese political forces participate.

As for the position of the Sudanese Nasirite Arab Socialist Party toward the Egyptian regime which is fettered by the camp's [Camp David] shackles, it is clear: We completely refuse to deal with that regime until it rids itself completely of the treacherous Camp David accords.

This is because Egypt, both as country and as base [of the Arab world], cannot become a grazing land for the Zionist movement and imperialist forces. It must return to its natural place among the forces of Arab revolution.

He added: I cannot see any results being achieved by Mubarak's recent visit to Sudan. [passage omitted]

Answering another question Al-Mirghani said: Our talks with Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, deputy secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, were good and constructive.

We dealt with issues of common interest. Our views on many issues were identical. There was emphasis on the importance of coordination and common action between our parties. [passage omitted]

SPLA Forces Attack 'Enemy' Positions

LD0905190188 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Latuka 1100 GMT 9 May 88

[Excerpts] On the 24th and 27th of last month, SPLA units of (Imotong), under the direct command of Captain William Manyok and the overall command of Captain (Dut Alwat), raided enemy positions in Ikoto town.

A correspondent says that seven enemy soldiers were killed, including three militiamen: Many were said to be wounded, some seriously. Some enemy houses were reduced to ashes. [Passage omitted]

A land mine planted by the SPLA forces' Maban Battalion Engineering unit was detonated by an enemy water tanker in Maban town, killing 15 enemy soldiers including the driver, identified as Muhammad Umar. [passage omitted]

During raids carried out by SPLA forces in Qaysan, Kashangaro, and Hillah al-Rif Aysh on the 27th of last month, innocent citizens of the area were killed by enemy troops angered by the SPLA raids.

A correspondent says that 20 people were killed in Goja, and 7 in Kashangaro. Their villages were set ablaze. [passage omitted]

Reports reaching Radio SPLA from Eastern Equatoria say an SPLA engineering unit from the Cobra task force, under the direct command of Captain (Abesnigo Ajak), and the overall command of Captain Deng Agwany Atem, clashed with enemy troops on the Liria-Torit road on 28 May 1988.

A correspondent says that more than 30 enemy troops were killed, while 2 trucks and a tank were destroyed. One vehicle was left on the battlefield and the other two were towed away by the enemy. [passage omitted]

SPLA forces of Aqrab task force, under the direct command of Captain John Oyway Manyok, have ambushed enemy troops on the Maridi-Mundri road. A correspondent says that enemy troops were killed and two vehicles destroyed. [passage omitted]

SPLA forces of Shakkush task force No 3, under the direct command of Captain Majer Ayom, and the overall command of Commander James Wani Igga, attacked an enemy force 2 miles from their camps in Kajo Kaji town: Four enemy soldiers were killed and four wounded. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

PLO's Faruq Qaddumi Arrives on 2-Day Visit

Meets Foreign Minister

JN081546 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1144 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] Manama, 8 May (WAKH)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah met today with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, who is currently visiting Manama.

During the meeting, they reviewed developments in the uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied homeland, ways to support the uprising, and the latest developments in contacts on covening an international peace conference on the Middle East issue.

They also discussed developments in both the Palestinian and Arab arenas as well as the PLO's position on these developments.

The Palestinian official arrived in Manama this morning on a 2-day visit to Bahrain as part of his current tour of the region.

Holds Talks With Amir

JN081940 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1850 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] Manama, 8 May (WAKH)—This evening His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the state of Bahrain, received Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, and his delegation who are currently visiting Bahrain.

Also attending the meeting were Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, and Wafa Nabhan, PLO representative in Bahrain.

Following the meeting, Qaddumi said he briefed his highness the amir of Bahrain on the latest developments in both the Palestinian and Arab arenas, especially on developments in the uprising of the Palestinian people against the Zionist enemy in the occupied territories as well as the blessed achievements of the uprising.

In a statement to WAKH, Qaddumi said he conveyed to his highness the greetings of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and the appreciation of the Palestinian leadership for the continued support by the state of Bahrain—amir, government, and people—for the PLO.

He added that his highness the amir of Bahrain praised the brave uprising of the Palestinian Arab people and renewed Bahrain's continued support for the uprising so the Palestinian people may regain their legitimate rights under the PLO.

Qaddumi added that he briefed his highness on the results of the Palestinian leadership's recent meeting in Baghdad, the normalization of Syrian-Palestinian relations, issues of interest to the Palestinian people such as self- determination, and the PLO's position on an international peace conference.

Departs for Jeddah

JN091116 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1045 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] Manama, 9 May (WAKH)—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, and his accompanying delegation left Manama for Jeddah in Saudi Arabia at noon today after a 2-day visit to Bahrain within a tour of a number of regional states.

Qaddumi held talks with senior Bahraini officials on current Arab and Palestinian developments, including the popular Palestinian uprising in the occupied territory and ways to support it, in addition to the developments in the Middle East crisis and the international peace conference.

The talks also dealt with the resolutions adopted by the PLO Executive Committee during the meetings held in Baghdad recently, particularly those related to the restoration of Palestinian-Syrian relations as well as issues of concern to the Palestinian people.

Kuwait

'Senior' Official Denies Deal With Hijackers

PM0505143388 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 May 88 p 1

[Fadyah al-Zu'bi report: "Prisoners Have Not Been Executed Because 'Mercy Is Above Justice'"]

[Text] Kuwait, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Kuwait yesterday ridiculed the doubts cast by Western officials on its ability to confront terrorism and firmly adhere to its principles and policy of rejecting blackmail.

In a statement exclusive to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, a senior Kuwaiti official replied to a statement by an unnamed U.S. official which was broadcast by British television (ITV) in which he said that Kuwait concluded a "barter deal" in Algeria with the hijackers of "Al-Jabiriyah" under which it would release some of the 17 prisoners in Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti official, who asked to remain anonymous, said that the statement made by the U.S. official indicates the latter's unfamiliarity with the series of terrorist acts to which Kuwait has been exposed and despite which Kuwait has not abandoned its stand.

The Kuwaiti official added: If Kuwait had made a deal with the hijackers over the release of the 17 prisoners in return for the release of the hostages, as claimed by the U.S. official, it would have released them when the Kuwaiti plane "Kazimah" was hijacked a few years ago.

The Kuwaiti official went on to say: Even the French thought that the Algerian Government was capable of persuading Kuwait to trade the prisoners for the "Al-Jabiriyah" hostages and other French hostages in Beirut.

That is why the French went to Beirut to receive their hostages, but they were wrong. Thus they decided to negotiate with the kidnappers of their hostages after they lost hope that the Kuwaiti Government would soften its stand.

The Kuwaiti official recalled the statement issued by the Amiri Court last Wednesday in which Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah emphasized that Kuwait, which has based its policy on the sublime principles and firmly believes in the magnanimous Islamic faith—which promotes justice, virtue, and the performance of good deeds and spreads charity and love among the people—will continue to adhere to its principles under any circumstances and to confront situations, good and bad.

As for the 17 prisoners whose release was demanded by the hijackers of "Al-Jabiriyah," the Kuwaiti source says that they had carried out bloody terrorist acts in the Kuwaiti arena, namely, 7 explosions that left 5 people dead and 87 injured.

They were all put on trial and lawyers were appointed to defend them; and they received a fair trial. Death sentences were passed on five of them (two are still at large).

Life sentences were passed on seven. Four were sentenced to 15 years' hard labor and subsequent deportation. One was sentenced to 10 years' hard labor and subsequent deportation. The remaining two were sentenced to 5 years' hard labor.

The source pointed out that the sentences have not yet been implemented against those sentenced to death despite it being 4 years since the sentences were passed, the reason being that in view of its civilized logic Kuwait has risen to the level of those who place "mercy above justice."

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from another senior Kuwaiti official that Kuwait was too merciful to the point of allowing some of the relatives of those convicted to enter Kuwait and visit their sons in prison, putting them up in luxury hotels at the expense of the Kuwaiti Interior Ministry.

PDRY

Talks Held With Egypt on Reopening Embassies

LD0705181888 Aden ANA in Arabic 1355 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] Aden, 7 May—Comrade Sa'id Muhsin, member of the Central Committee and deputy foreign minister, received at his office this afternoon the Egyptian Foreign Ministry delegation led by Brother (Husayn al-Kashmal), director of the Arab Homeland Department at the ministry.

During the meeting, Comrade Sa'id Muhsin received a letter addressed to Comrade Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Central Committee and foreign minister, from his brother Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy premier and foreign minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt, which concerns fraternal bilateral relations. There was also a discussion at the meeting on the necessary arrangements for the reopening of the embassies in Aden and Cairo.

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry delegation arrived in Aden the day before yesterday to discuss with Foreign Ministry officials the ongoing preparations in the two countries for the reopening of their respective embassies on the basis of the agreement reached recently between them for the resumption of diplomatic relations.

YSP Political Bureau Discusses Unity Efforts

LD0505204488 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] The YSP Central Committee Political Bureau this morning held an extraordinary meeting under the chairmanship of Brother Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general and secretary of the Central Committee.

The Political Bureau acquainted itself with the results of the visit Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Central Committee, paid to Sanaa at the head of a high-level delegation, and also the discussions with the brothers in the leadership of the northern part of the homeland, headed by brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress.

The Political Bureau expressed its gratification concerning the results of these discussions and the unionist agreement signed concerning creating a project for joint exploitation of natural gas in the area situated between Marib and Shabwah Governorates; speeding up the implementation of a timetable concerning the draft constitution of the unity state; eradicating the barriers impeding the movement of countrymen between the two parts; and coordinating the work of the Supreme Yemeni Council, the Joint Ministerial Committee, and the unionist committees of the two parts.

The Political Bureau is of the opinion that the implementation of these agreements will inaugurate the beginning of a specific new stage for accelerating unionist work (?in addition to) ending the factors contributing to partition and provide the preconditions for unity of the Yemeni land and people by peaceful and democratic means.

The Political Bureau stressed the need for maximum efforts in the forthcoming period to put the issues agreed upon into practice. It pointed out the utmost importance of peaceful and democratic dialogue in resolving all the problems and questions arising from the national struggle to restore the homeland's unity and to keep our people free from the dangers of a continued state of partition.

These problems include those springing from the conspiracy of the backward forces hostile to the unity and progress of our people, which is intended to redouble the obstacles and difficulties impeding the path of unity of the homeland, shake its security and stability, exhaust its capabilities, and dissipate its resources.

In this connection, the Political Bureau calls on all honorable nationalists among the sons of our people to support the efforts to implement the agreements concluded and to mobilize all their militant energies to continue more unionist steps in the supreme national interest of our Yemeni people in unity and progress under the guidance of the great principles of the 26 September and 14 October glorious revolutions, and to be vigilant against the conspiracies and machinations of the backward forces hostile to a Yemen that is unified, prosperous, secure, and stable.

The Political Bureau charged the organs concerned to follow through on the implementation of these agreements.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Sends Message to PDRY's Al-'Attas

LD1005034588 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2314 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] Aden, 9 May (SPA)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, has sent a letter to His Excellency President Haydar al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium, in reply to the letter sent by His Excellency al-'Attas to the custodian of the two holy mosques.

The letter was delivered by the Kingdom's ambassador in Aden, Muwaffaq 'Abdallah al-Dulayfan [name as received], when he was received by President al-'Attas today at the Presidency.

The letter dealt with strengthening fraternal bilateral relations as well as developments in the Arab arena.

Cabinet Discusses Upcoming Pilgrimage Season

LD1005040088 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2258 GMT 9 May 88

[Excerpt] Mecca, 9 May (SPA)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, chaired a cabinet meeting at 2200 this evening, Monday 9 May, at Al-Safah Palace in Mecca.

After the session, His Excellency 'Ali al-Sha'ir, the information minister, made the following statement to SPA:

Under his honorable guidance, the cabinet examined at the outset of its session all the reports relating to the main events and security and political developments in the Arab and international arenas.

The cabinet then reviewed all the stands expressed and announced by the Islamic and Muslim states in the context of their solidarity and absolute support for the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in all the decisions and measures the Kingdom has taken in order to protect the sanctity of Muslim sacred sites in Mecca and Al-Madinah and to provide security, comfort, and tranquillity to the pilgrims.

In this respect, the cabinet expressed the deep appreciation of the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the leadership of the custodian of the two holy mosques, for these sincere fraternal Islamic stands and stressed the Kingdom's desire to continue to do its duty in the service of the two holy mosques and to dedicate itself to taking care of the pilgrims while they are performing their religious duties in peace, tranquillity, and humility in accordance with the teachings of the Holy Koran and the Sunnah. [passage omitted]

Briefs

Aid to Jordan

Amman, 9 May (SPA)—Jordanian Finance Minister Hanna 'Awdah has expressed his country's thanks and appreciation to the government of the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, for the financial support given to Jordan. He said in a statement to SPA that the government of his country today received from the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia a check for $59.9 million, which represents the second installment of this year's aid which the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia gives to Jordan by virtue of the resolutions adopted at the Baghdad Arab summit. The Jordanian minister also indicated that the Saudi support is extremely vital inasmuch as it enables Jordan to carry out its duties and stand against the Israeli enemy. [Text] [*LD1005033588 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2351 GMT 9 May 88*]

United Arab Emirates

PLO's Qaddumi Arrives With 'Arafat Message

JN070558 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0535 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 6 May (WAKH)—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, arrived in Abu Dhabi from Kuwait today on a 2-day visit to the UAE. Qaddumi will deliver a message to His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, from Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, on ongoing Arab and Palestinian developments.

President Receives Qaddumi

JN072113 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1930 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 7 May (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE President, has received a message from PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

The message deals with current developments in the Palestine issue in the Arab and international arenas and the Zionist aggression against the Palestinian people in light of the heroic uprising which is continuing to achieve its objectives. Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, conveyed the message when Shaykh Zayid received him here today.

State Minister Returns From Egypt, Libya

JN081633 Manama WAKH in English 1605 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, May 8 (GNA)—UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, Rashid 'Abdallah, returned home today after visits to Egypt and Libya. Rashid delivered two messages from UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi dealing with Shaykh Zayid's continued efforts to clear the Arab atmosphere and boost Arab relations.

AL-BAYAN Calls on Arabs To 'Confront' Israel

JN081630 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 5 May 88 p 1

[Editorial: "The Reality and What It Deserves"]

[Text] Once again the latest Israeli incursion into Lebanon presents a number of facts that we, the Arabs, should face directly and realistically, away from rhetoric and superficial emotions that have no weight in the world of action.

The first of these facts is that the Zionist entity behaves with the assumption that its strength is unmatched in the region. It does not expect any practical reaction that may curb its adventures.

It considers itself completely free to perpetrate any crime against an individual or at the international level according to its own standards and without taking into consideration the stands of other parties.

The second fact is that Israel, being totally assured of full U.S. support even before signing the strategic cooperation agreement, pays little attention to world condemnation.

The third fact is that it is useless for the Arabs to appeal for help from the outside world whether from friendly countries or from countries that claim to be friendly toward the Arabs.

There is also no use appealing to international organizations such as the United Nations, or to human rights conventions. All of this will not deter Israel because they do not have any material deterrent to curb Israel's aggression.

The first and most important fact is that for the Arabs to face up to this situation, they have only one of two choices. The first choice is to give in to the fait accompli, accept the destiny of followers, and surrender forever to the enemy that relies on U.S. support.

This choice, of course, is unacceptable to a nation with such a religion, history, and existence. The other choice is to confront the enemy with all our means of strength and determination to extricate ourselves from this Israeli-U.S. impasse, with both our dignity and land.

However, we should be aware that confrontation will be useless if it remains confined to condemnations and appeals to world conscience. Steel can be made blunt only by steel, and international bullying cannot be stopped by slogans and references to the clauses of international law.

It can only be stopped by a power able to paralyze the hands of the aggressors. Thank God we do not complain about a lack of strength, money, or men.

We possess everything necessary to paralyze the hands of the aggressors. We only need solidarity, a united will, and joint determination to confront the common danger. God willing, we will accomplish this. We have no other alternative.

Foreign Minister Receives PLO Chairman 9 May

JN091904 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, this evening received Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. During the meeting, they discussed developments in the Palestinian people's brave uprising in the occupied Arab territories and ways to support it.

They also discussed the preparations to hold an extraordinary Arab summit on the uprising. The summit will be held in Algiers early next month. Attending the meeting were Sa'dun Shakir, RCC member; the comrade deputy official in charge of the Arab liberation movements office; the Foreign Ministry under secretary; and the director of the PLO office in Baghdad.

Communique No 3,172 Details 8-9 May Combat

JN101114 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 May 88

[Communique No 3,172 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 9 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our forces continued their activities last night and today as follows:

1. Our units in the I Army Corps northern sector pounded enemy units opposite them and achieved the following: the killing of 11 scoundrels; the destruction of 5 infantry positions, a tubular launcher, a gun, a tractor, and an excavator; the setting ablaze and destruction of 2 vehicles; and the blowing up of 3 ammunition dumps.

2. Ten aggressors were killed; 6 infantry positions and 1 vehicle carrying a 106-mm gun were destroyed; and 1 ammunition dump was blown up in the Special I Army Corps sector, the Allahu Akbar forces. Two machineguns and one infantry position were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

3. In the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah two observation posts were destroyed and two ammunition dumps were blown up. In the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris one infantry position was destroyed and one ammunition dump was blown up.

4. Our units in the VII Army Corps sector inflicted the following losses on the enemy: the destruction of eight various positions, two machineguns and the killing of their crewmen, and one shovel [preceding word in English]; the setting ablaze and destruction of one vehicle; and the blowing up of eight ammunition dumps.

5. The Iranian regime, which insists on aggression and on rekindling the cities war in violation of the bases according to which Iraq stopped the bombardment of Iranian cities, shelled residential areas in the village of Darband-i Khan today.

Six houses were destroyed and others were damaged. Those who commit such crimes will bear the grave responsibilty for their crimes.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 9 May 1988

INA Commentator Lauds Saudi Break With Iran

JN091546 Baghdad INA in English 1435 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, May 9, INA—The political commentator of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY has described the wide-scale Arab and Islamic support for Saudi Arabia's decision to break off relations with Iran as an expression of Arabs and Muslims unanimity in considering the Khomeyni regime as an aggressive, expansionist and greedy regime that should be boycotted and isolated.

This unanimity on the isolation of Khomeyni regime, the commentator said, was a serious phenomena that should become an important factor in defining international relations in order to base these relations on cooperation, good neighbourlihood and mutual respect instead of the policies of provocation, aggression, terrorism and expansionism pursued by the Khomeyni regime.

Described Saudi Arabia's decision as a courageous one, the commentator said this decision was an affirmation of Saudi Arabia's rejection to all attempts aimed at undermining its security, sovereignty and freedom.

This daring and pan-Arab initiative should be an example followed by all countries who suffered from the Iranian aggression, terrorism and subversion.

The commentator pointed out that Saudi Arabia's decision follows the major military defeat suffered by the Iranian regime by the liberation of Al-Faw by the victorious Iraqi Armed Forces.

"Saudi Arabia has the full right to take any measures necessary to secure the safety of the forthcoming pilgrimage season and to confront the sinister dreams of the Khomeynists."

Recalling that Iraq had welcomed the Saudi decision, the commentator noted that many Arab and Islamic countries had taken such sound steps to boycott the Iranian regime and isolated it political and economically.

More on Peres' Talks in Hungary, Leaders' Remarks

Renewal of Relations Foreseen

TA0905124088 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 9 May 88 pp 1, 12

[Report by Orli Azulay-Katz and Gad Li'or]

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres secretly left for Budapest yesterday where he held a 5-hour discussion with Hungarian Prime Minister Karoly Grosz.

Peres told his hosts: "We remember that East European states helped establish the State of Israel, and we will not forget it." Peres pointed out that he aims to make the Eastern bloc's positions on the Middle East issue more flexible. "Without ties with Israel," Peres told the Hungarians, "the Eastern bloc countries cannot influence the peace process constructively."

The tightening of Israeli-Hungarian ties and a possible renewal of diplomatic relations were brought up in the conversation. Increasing tourism and economic cooperation between the two countries were also discussed.

At the end of the meeting the two sides decided to confer again in the next few months. This morning Peres will meet the Hungarian minister of foreign affairs and the deputy prime minister.

Peres and his three aides are staying in the official Hungarian Government guest house. They visited the Budapest synagogue and met representatives of the local Jewish community.

The foreign minister was supposed to have left Israel today for the Socialist International meeting in Madrid, but he changed his plans at the last minute and left for Hungary.

Peres' visit to Hungary was arranged by a mediator, a businessman, and was initiated by the Hungarian prime minister. It should be noted that this is the first visit by an Israeli foreign minister to Hungary.

Political sources in Jerusalem yesterday speculated that Hungary would resume diplomatic relations with Israel within the next few months. Peres' invitation itself is seen in Jerusalem as a clear sign that Budapest wishes to renew its good relations with Israel, and that this is done with the blessing of the Soviet Union, which knew about it in advance.

The visit itself, as was previously mentioned, was planned amid great secrecy. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was informed of all the steps that have been taken and approved the visit.

The offices of the prime minister and foreign minister yesterday noted that relations between Israel and several East European states have improved significantly. Good tourist and economic relations exist between Israel and Hungary, and several thousand Israelis visited Hungary last year.

For their part, the Hungarians are interested in common economic projects with Israel, and even more so in economic assistance from the United States. Political sources assess that this was the background for the Hungary's rapprochement with Israel.

The Hungarians, it should be remembered, opened an interests section in the Swedish Embassy in Tel Aviv on March 14th this year after 21 years without relations of any kind between Israel and Hungary.

The Hungarians insisted on the proposed meeting being kept secret and threatened to cancel it should details of the meeting leak. They have further announced that they will not allow reporters to accompany Peres.

Even the representative in the Israeli interests office in Budapest had no prior knowledge of Peres' coming to Hungary.

Beilin on Visit's Significance

TA0905190288 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 9 May 88

[Interview with Dr Yosi Beilin, political director general of the Foreign Ministry, by anchorman Ya'aqov Ahime'ir in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] [Ahime'ir] Good evening, Dr Beilin.

[Beilin] Good evening.

[Ahime'ir] What is the significance of Foreign Minister Peres' visit to Hungary?

[Beilin] I think this visit, held at the initiative of the Hungarians, elevates by one step the level of bilateral relations between Israel and Hungary. This provides an addition to the fabric of relations between Israel and East European countries.

This is the major importance of this visit, beyond the mutual economic ties. In the meetings yesterday and this morning, a more regulated system for economic relations was laid down.

[Ahime'ir] Are we to expect an expansion in bilateral economic relations?

[Beilin] Certainly. Hungary is highly interested in pursuing and expanding good economic relations with us. It wants to improve its economic ties with many countries. It is also interested in tourism, agriculture, and industry. These are all areas where we have something to contribute.

[Ahime'ir] What could you tell us this evening about the possibility of the resumption of formal diplomatic relations between the two countries?

[Beilin] I do not think that we can talk today about a specific target date for such an issue to be settled. Nevertheless, I would say the following: Although in 1967 relations between Israel and East European countries were severed collectively, their resumption or the normalization process will be done individually.

I believe that Hungary is one of those countries that enjoys more leeway to improve relations with us. This is where the import of the matter lies.

[Ahime'ir] One more question, Dr Beilin, my last one: What do you think about the view that the visit to Hungary is important for Hungary to improve its status in the United States, in view of its economic difficulties?

[Beilin] I would say this: There is a special relationship between Hungary and Israel. During yesterday's talks, for example, the Hungarian leaders told us: Look, there is no other country besides Israel that has a Hungarian daily.

There is no other concentration of 200,000 Hungarian speakers in the Middle East. These can only be found in Israel, so there is something very real between Hungary and Israel.

There is also a genuine interest in a bilateral economic relationship. Still, it is true both for us and for them that the contacts may be held with the mother-in-law, while the eye is really cast on the wife.

When the Hungarians talk to us, I definitely would not rule out the possibility that they are winking at the United States. At the same time, it would be wrong to say that this is not the case with regard to our relations with Eastern Europe, that is to say, as a way to reach the Soviet Union.

[Ahime'ir] Thank you very much, Dr Yosi Beilin.

[Beilin] Thank you.

Peres: Ties 'Very Sensitive'

TA1005061088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, yesterday arrived in Madrid after meetings in Budapest with the Hungarian leaders. Our special correspondent in Madrid, Yisra'el Segal, spoke to Mr Peres.

[Begin recording] [Segal] Mr Peres, this is actually the first official visit since 1967 by an Israeli foreign minister to one of the communist bloc countries. Why Hungary, of all places? Why not Poland?

[Peres] First of all, it could only be Hungary or Poland, besides Romania, because these are the two countries with whom we have interest sections. I am glad a visit to Hungary was made possible.

I am speaking with some hesitation, because I feel Hungary needs time to become accustomed to the new situation. Countries which have had no relations with Israel are very sensitive to the possible reactions.

Sometimes the unknown is more threatening than the actual events. I therefore respect their wish to keep a low profile, at least with respect to the public aspect.

[Segal] Taking these limitations into account, what were your meetings about? What were their contents?

[Peres] There was a great desire to hear in an orderly fashion, and in detail, what the current situation is all about. These are intelligent people who, although they read the relevant material, sometimes cannot follow the order and contents of the events and problems with which we are faced.

Therefore, they wanted to hear a detailed and accurate account of our present situation, our problems, and what the opportunities and obstacles are. A part of the talks was devoted to the relations between our two countries.

Naturally, what greatly attracted me to Hungary was the existence of an important Jewish community there. After the Soviet Union, it is the largest Jewish community [in the Eastern Bloc], and I will not conceal that I was very moved by my visit to the synagogue there.

The visit to the synagogue, which incidentally, borders on the house in which Herzl was born, was a visit into history and into some very sad memories. It was for me a very moving visit.

[Segal] The visit to Hungary was supposed to have been secret. How were you found out?

[Peres] You are always looking for something that's not there. The visit was supposed to have been secret until my arrival in Budapest. We agreed that we would decide whether to continue the secrecy after I got there.

The truth is that it was almost impossible, because the moment I arrived in Zurich, I was probably recognized as I transferred from Swissair to the Hungarian airline.

The Hungarians also came to shake my hand, and I said to myself: Say goodbye to secrecy. I think that when I arrived in Zurich, they began speculating as to where I had disappeared, where I had gone, where I had stopped. It all aroused interest and curiosity. It is no big disaster. [end recording]

Peres Comments on 'Open' Talks

TA1005075188 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 10 May 88

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by special correspondent Tamar Golan, in Madrid—recorded]

[Text] [Peres] I certainly had a peculiar feeling, because Hungary is not just a communist country, it is a country with historical significance from the Jewish people's point of view.

I was naturally curious, as anyone would be approaching an unknown entity. I had no idea what this country would look like, how the people I would meet would behave.

In this regard I found that they did not use a lot of catch phrases when speaking to me. I found a lot of openness and an attentive ear, a thirst for knowledge. By reading between the lines I was also able to understand the problems which characterize the communist bloc countries. They too have many problems.

[Golan] In practical terms, is there a significant difference between them and the others regarding the Middle East issue, for instance, or the PLO?

[Peres] There is a difference in that they mainly listened. Comparing them to the Romanians I would say that the latter already have a theory of their own and advice they like to give.

I received no such counseling in Hungary, only a very attentive ear. Of course, it is not as though they asked no pointed questions. They did.

[Golan] On what subjects?

[Peres] On the Palestinian issue, on the subject of self determination, subjects like these.

[Golan] I understand that you cannot say much regarding the visit since it was supposed to have been secret. Still, are there any practical results, even if you cannot expound on them?

[Peres] I think there are some interesting beginnings in spheres which interest both our countries.

[Golan] And the contacts with the Soviets? May one assume the Soviets will be kept abreast?

[Peres] I do not know, I did not ask. If they told me, I would not have quoted them.

[Golan] Do you believe your meetings with the Soviets here will have any practical results, or are they a continuation of your visit to Hungary?

[Peres] I cannot predict. I will form an opinion only after I have met with them. I cannot guess, I really do not know. If I knew, I would have told you.

Peres Makes 'Surprise' Stopover in Italy

TA0905174088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres made a surprise visit to Italy today on his way back from his talks with the Hungarian foreign minister. Peres is now holding talks with Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti at a military airport near Milan. The subject of the talks is the situation in the territories. Lisa Billig reports from Rome:

[Begin recording] Shim'on Peres and Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti are having talks right now at the (Linante) military airport of Milan. Mr Peres was escorted to the meeting by an Italian military plane that picked him up in Budapest and will bring him on to Madrid tonight for the International Socialist congress scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday.

According to Italian Foreign Ministry sources, Mr Peres requested the encounter yesterday, and Mr Andreotti offered a plane to facilitate this movement.

Mr Peres and Mr Andreotti are discussing the situation in the West Bank and Gaza, said the spokesman, but without any preestablished formulas. The recent idea of sending a military force of the EEC to the occupied territories to create a cushion area, launched by the Italian Socialist leader Bettino Craxi and discussed by the Italian Parliament, was only an idea, we were told today. Official sources say there is no Italian project, only ideas that need to be worked out together. [end recording]

Helicopters Raid S. Lebanon; 'Terrorists' Killed

TA1005044088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] In the Qabrikha area of south Lebanon a number of terrorists were killed yesterday afternoon by Israeli helicopter gunships. Voice of Israel's correspondent in the north, Hayim Hecht, says that South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldiers on patrol were ambushed by gunmen hiding in a house in the village.

The SLA unit summoned help from Israeli helicopters on routine patrol in the area. The gunships attacked the house which collapsed under fire, killing the gunmen inside.

IDF Clashes With 'Terrorist' in Security Zone

TA1005121488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] The IDF spokesman announced that a terrorist was killed after midnight last night in a clash between an IDF unit and a terrorist squad on the fringes of the security strip northwest of Bint Jubayl.

Our forces sustained no casualties. His personal weapon, a Katyusha rocket, and two mines were found near his body. The clash occurred on the border of the security strip, near the village of Al-Tiri.

It seems that the terrorist squad was about to infiltrate into the security zone and plant the mines on roads used by the IDF.

IDF Denies Intercepting Fishermen Off Tyre

TA0905175688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] The Israel Army spokesman has flatly denied reports from Lebanon that an Israeli patrol boat stopped Lebanese fishermen off the coast of Tyre today and arrested two of them.

According to REUTER in Tyre, a third fisherman was beaten up and spent 9 hours trying to swim ashore before being picked up. The IDF spokesman said there has been no such contact at all between any Israeli Navy boat and Lebanese fishermen.

SLA Kills PFLP Member in Security Zone

TA0905174788 Jerusalem Domestice Service in English 1700 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] The South Lebanese Army [SLA] has killed a member of George Habash's PFLP. He was captured near the village of Qil' in the security zone, where he was supposed to attack Israeli vehicles.

The Voice of Israel's military correspondent adds that SLA forces have been successful lately in capturing hostile elements attempting to infiltrate into the security zone.

Officials Deny Appeal to U.S. To Free Pollard

TA0905172288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] Israel recently appealed secretly to Washington to release Jonathan Pollard, who spied for it, Jack Anderson wrote today. He said Israel is trying to convince the U.S. State Department and the White House to make a deal that would lead to Pollard's release.

Official Israeli sources in Washington told our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer that there is no truth to Anderson's article and that Israel did not appeal to the U.S. Administration in any way to bring about Pollard's release.

Pazner Denies Receiving Shultz Message on 'Awwad

TA0905143188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 9 May 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The prime minister's media adviser has issued a statement clarifying that the prime minister's office has not received any message whatsoever in the last few days from the U.S. secretary of state concerning Mubarak 'Awwad's case.

Visiting Romanian Official Meets With Peres

TA0605133388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 6 May 88

[Text] Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez will meet with Foreign Minister Peres in Madrid in a few days. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that this morning Mr Peres met with Nicolae Constantin, the Romanian deputy prime minister, [title as heard] who arrived in Israel in order to participate in MAPAM's convention.

In their talk the two discussed the international conference issue and the Soviet stance on it. Mr Peres again made it clear that Israel will not agree to a conference with coercive powers.

Talks With Shamir

TA0905143388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir met with Nicolae Constantin, the Romanian deputy prime minister, [title as heard] who is currently in Israel as guest of the MAPAM party for its convention. Our political correspondent points out that the two discussed the political process in the region.

MAPAM Convention Ratifies Political Platform

TA0705180988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] MAPAM's convention concluded this afternoon by ratifying the party's political and social platform. Our correspondent Razi Barqay reports that the preparatory committee's proposal on the main clauses was accepted.

These clauses stipulate, among other things, that negotiations can be held with the PLO in the future if it recognizes Israel and the UN resolutions, and if it announces its renunciation of terror.

In addition, MAPAM prefers solving the Palestinian problem in a Jordanian framework, but does not rule out a Palestinian state.

The MAPAM convention dealt with ideological matters only, and decisions on the Knesset list will be made in a special session of the party's Central Committee. The convention nevertheless decided to adopt the Central Committee's decision that MAPAM run on an independent ticket in the elections.

Receives CPSU Greetings

TA0705094188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 7 May 88

[Excerpt] A congratulatory telegram from the CPSU Central Committee was read aloud in today's session of the MAPAM convention. Our correspondent Razi Barqay reports that the Soviet cable wishes MAPAM the ability to contribute toward the solution of the region's problems, including that of the Palestinians.

AL-FAJR editor Hanna Sinyurah also sent the convention a congratulatory cable. [passage omitted]

Police Arrest Fifth Editor of Banned Newspaper

TA0805080488 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 May 88 p 4

[ITIM report]

[Text] Petah Tiqva—A fifth editor of the left-wing weekly DEREKH HANITZOTZ [THE WAY OF THE SPARK] was arrested in her home at 5 a.m. on Friday. Hadas Lahav, who is being held in the police lock-up here, is suspected of membership in a hostile organization and of security offences.

Already in detention on suspicion of similar crimes are Mikhal Schwartz, Ya'aqov Ben-Efrat, Roni Ben-Efrat and Rubhi al-Aruri, who has been in administrative detention since February.

Both DEREKH HANITZOTZ and TARIQ AL-SHARARAH [Arabic publication of THE WAY OF THE SPARK] were closed down by the Interior Ministry on February 18, on suspicion of being linked with the PLO's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Unrest, Related Events in Territories Reported

2 Beaten in Gaza Rioting

TA0905152588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] Two Arab inhabitants of Gaza were wounded by beatings during violent demonstrations. The riots were in the Al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood near the Al-Azhar College, Shaykh Ridwan, the Al-Shati' refugee camp, and Bayt Hanun. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that security forces imposed a curfew on Shaykh Ridwan and Jabalyah.

Camp Declared Closed Zone

TA0905165788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 9 May 88

[Report by Arye Gus]

[Text] The general strike which took place today in Judaea and Samaria on orders of extremist nationalist elements should, perhaps, have hinted at disturbances to come.

It was quiet in the area this morning but at noon disturbances and serious rioting broke out at the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp near Bethlehem. During the riot IDF soldiers used live ammunition, seriously wounding one of the rioters. He was transferred to hospital in East Jerusalem, where he died of his wounds. Three youths were wounded during the riot.

The funeral of the dead man, Ibrahim Husayn, took place in the early afternoon, and it quickly turned into a large demonstration. The Army closed off the area and declared it a military zone.

There were also disturbances and clashes with security forces in other places in Judaea and Samaria, such as Hebron, Yattah, Nabulus, and Ramallah.

The inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria responded positively today to the call to strike; the strike was complete. Few left for work in Israel, and the there was very little public transport. Among the municipal councils only Ramallah joined the strike.

Strike Continues in W. Bank

TA1005103988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] West Bank residents observe a general strike today for the second consecutive day. The strike is in response to a call from the so-called leadership of the uprising.

Most workers employed in Israel apparently reported for work this morning despite the strike in the territories. All commercial activity is at a standstill, and public transport is also paralyzed in a number of centers.

Meanwhile, the curfew continues in force in the refugee camp of Al-Duhayshah south of Bethlehem after yesterday's disturbances in which a man was killed, apparently by army gunfire. The army is investigating the circumstances of his death. Residents of Al-Duhayshah claim he was in his home when he was shot.

IDF Fire Wounds 1 in Tulkarm

TA1005122188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] An Arab youth was wounded by IDF gunshots near the village of Ramin in the Tulkarm District. Military sources have told our correspondent Arye Gus that an IDF patrol was attacked with rocks and the soldiers were forced to open fire. The youth was transferred to the local hospital in serious condition.

Commentary Views Syrian 'Restraint' in Lebanon

TA0605133788 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 6 May 88 p B10

[Commentary by Moshe Zaq: "Opposite the Syrians"]

[Excerpts] The self-control and restraint displayed by the Syrian leadership this week as IDF units were approaching their military positions near Maydun is commendable.

Unlike Jerusalem, Damascus was not abuzz with arguments about the dangers inherent in a confrontation with Israel. The Syrian leadership knows how to keep its political-military considerations secret.

It managed to keep secret the use made of Palestinian-Lebanese terror squads to strike at targets in Israel and in Europe. The Syrian leadership did not reveal its secret even when it became evident, as a result of a foul-up in London, that the agent who had tried to plant a bomb aboard an El Al plane had been run by the chief of Syrian Air Force Intelligence.

Damascus is not one to explain in public the reason why the Syrian Army did not intervene even when the IDF came close to the Syrian positions. Even the criticism the Arab world is expected to voice against Syria's apathy in the face of the Israeli raid will not stir the Syrian ruler to reveal the reasons for his self-control because such a disclosure might reveal his vulnerable points.

Hafiz al-Asad is known to have nerves of steel. At the end of the Lebanese war, during a dogfight between Israeli and Syrian airplanes, he ordered that missiles be fired although he certainly knew that Syrian pilots might be hurt.

A man that is capable of making such decisions when his own pilots are at stake is surely capable of making his troops hold their fire, and of keeping them out of a military confrontation with Israel at a time not chosen by Syria.

Such a cool person is capable of resisting the pressures of his subordinates and issuing a warning to Israel only after he has been persuaded that the warning is safe and will not bring about an escalation.

The warning was issued only when it became clear that the IDF had already left Maydun. Only then could Damascus "flex its muscles" and warn Israel that if it occupied 'Ayn al-Tinah and Mashgharah, the two neighboring villages where Syrian Army troops are stationed, Syria would react firmly.

This warning was meant to allay Arab criticism of the fact that the Syrian Army stood idly by while the IDF destroyed Hizballah's base in Maydun.

Chief of Staff Dan Shomron said this week that measures were taken so that "there is a reasonable chance that there will be no Syrian intervention in the course of the operation, and it seems that the Syrians got the message."

In contrast, the Soviet Foreign Ministry's communique denouncing the IDF operation stressed the fact that it had been conducted near the Syrian troops. This emphasis might encourage Arab criticism of the Syrian Army's non-intervention while IDF units were occupying a town close to its positions.

Israel does not want to ruffle Syria's feathers, or highlight the vast difference between its conceited anti-Israeli statements and its practical ability to stand up to the IDF.

Nevertheless, the fact remains that Syria's prestige was damaged in Lebanon, even if that was not the purpose of the Israeli operation.

Israel reiterated that it had no intention of clashing with the Syrian Army. The local population, particularly the terrorist organizations, knew from experience that Damascus is not interested in an open confrontation with Israel at this stage.

Syria is prepared to pull strings behind the scenes, but it wants to avoid any head-on confrontation—and this means the terrorists will have to reconsider.

Even if this fact dawns on the inhabitants of southern Lebanon based on the conduct of the Syrian Army, Israel's leaders should under no circumstances emphasize the Syrian failure.

There is a remote chance that this might arouse a Syrian reaction just as this week's events in southern Lebanon have actually created a tiny opening toward a tacit agreement between Israel and Syria in Lebanon.

The Syrian president is now conducting negotiations with the Americans about a "new order" in Lebanon. Damascus is seeking Washington's approval for changes in Lebanon's regime, theoretically in a bid to adapt it to the changes in the balance of power among the factions in the country, but actually to increase Syria's influence in Lebanon.

This may also be the reason why Al-Asad displayed such self-control and did not hasten to clash with the IDF in Maydun. This would have undermined his chances in a dialogue with the Americans over Lebanon's future.

Bringing the Christians in Lebanon to their knees is so important to Al-Asad that when Kamal Junblatt (Walid's father) refused to accept his authority and continued to incense the Christians he was assassinated.

In Junblatt's memoirs Al-Asad is said to have told him: Do not stand in my way for an arrangement with the Christians and the domination of the whole of Lebanon.

This remains a basic guideline in Al-Asad's policy, and that is why he controlled himself and did not let this week's operation disrupt the moves concerning Lebanon's future.

If this was Al-Asad's purpose, and if the United States is prepared to lend a hand to it, then this also provides Israel with a political trump card. [passage omitted]

Ever since the return of the Syrian Army to Beirut, after the Israeli-Lebanese agreement was thwarted, Syria has had a hard time controlling this war-torn land.

It is seeking the support of the United States in order to attain Israel's practical consent to its domination of Lebanon. From the ideological point of view Syria cannot conduct negotiations with Israel.

That is why it is trying to attain this goal through the American channel. It is striving for something similar to the 1976 tacit agreement about "red lines", an agreement between Jerusalem and Damascus about the boundaries of the Syrian Army's deployment in southern Lebanon that was achieved with the mediation of Husayn and the Americans.

Israel's problem in south Lebanon is the absence of an authoritative government on the border. This no-man's-land invites the terrorists to plan attacks against targets in Israel.

A dialogue—albeit indirect—with Syria may provide this area with stability and quiet as well as a border from which the Syrians do not allow terrorist operations. Such an arrangement cannot be made by Israel as an unilateral gesture since it calls for a Syrian move in exchange.

The Syrian restraint points to the theoretical possibility of a dialogue. The unnecessary argument among Cabinet ministers over the question of who gave the order might, however, put a lid on this tiny opening. [passage omitted]

The lack of self-restraint of Israeli ministers who could not postpone their argument until we had finished burying our dead is worrisome in itself. However, it becomes even more worrisome if one considers that the political opportunity arising from Syrian restraint in Maydun might be drowned in it.

There is no certainty that this restraint can be turned into a lever toward attaining some kind of settlement in southern Lebanon. It may, however, be said with absolute certainty that a ruler who keeps his secrets will hesitate a great deal before making a **tacit agreement** [preceding words in boldface as published] with ministers who cannot keep their mouths shut. [preceding four words underlined]

King Says PLO Seeks Joint Delegation With Egypt
NC1005070088 Paris AFP in English 0648 GMT 10 May

[By Fu'ad Na'im]

[Excerpts] Amman, May 10 (AFP)—The Palestine Liberation Organisation has asked Cairo to form a joint PLO-Egyptian delegation to Middle East peace talks, Jordan's King Husayn has said in an interview. But King Husayn told AFP late Monday that Cairo had refused the PLO request.

King Husayn also disclosed that his country would officially ask Egypt to participate in next month's emergency Arab League summit in Algiers which is expected to focus on the five-month-old Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories. [passage omitted]

Asked to comment on Mr. Shultz's forthcoming visit, the Jordanain monarch said:

"For a long time I have not been satisfied with the American position (in the Middle East) and I have not been confortable with what I have sensed concerning the converging viewpoints between the extremist Israeli right and the American right, if this is how it can be referred to. But we must pursue our dialogue with the United States as well as with the influential nations in this part of the world, particularly with the five permanent members of the (U.N.) Security Council and this naturally means with the Soviet Union."

King Husayn said that Soviet positions were "close if not identical" to Arab positions. He stressed that the main problems existing in the Middle East were Israel's "intransigence" and "continuous U.S. support" to Israel. [passage omitted]

King Husayn reiterated that Jordan would not negotiate on behalf of the PLO in any peace talks, stressing that the organisation was the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He said the PLO sought to form a joint delegation with Egypt after it had rejected a PLO-Jordanian delegation.

Elsewhere, the monarch called for the creation of an "inter-Arab regiment" capable of defending all Arab states and said that he would be willing to enlist "the third or half" of Jordan's Armed Forces into such a pan-Arab force.

King Husayn said initially "three divisions of at least 30,000 men" could form the inter-Arab force and that the troops could hold maneuvers in any Arab country rather than be positioned in a determined state.

He linked the need for such a force to the situation in the Gulf and the seven-and-a-half-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

Algerian Foreign Minister Arrives With Message
JN091749 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] Algerian Foreign Minister Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi arrived in Amman this evening on a short visit to Jordan during which he will convey a message to His Majesty King Husayn from his brother president Chadli Bendjedid.

He was received at the airport by Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masir, a number of ministry officials, and the Algerian ambassador in Amman.

King Receives Ibrahimi
JN092014 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn receives Algerian Foreign Minister Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi at the Royal Hashemite Court this evening. The Algerian minister conveyed a message to his majesty the king from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid.

The message contains an invitation to an emergency Arab summit conference to discuss the latest developments in the occupied Arab territories in light of the escalation of our people's uprising there, ways to support the uprising, and the latest developments in the Arab arena.

The prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the court minister, the foreign minister, and the Algerian ambassador in Amman attended the meeting.

JORDAN TIMES on 'Skepticism' Over Shultz Trip
JN090603 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 May 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Good Reason for Scepticism"]

[Text] United States Secretary of State George Shultz' plans to visit the Middle East once again early next month in search of a negotiated solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict will cause most Arabs to express the same sort of scepticism which greeted Mr. Shultz during his recent trips to the area—and with good reason, given his attitude and proposals during those trips.

But it would be wrong to dismiss Mr. Shultz and the American government's sudden dynamism in the search for a negotiated accord. Though most of us in the region doubt that there is sufficient Israeli flexibility or American fairness to launch a negotiated settlement, it would be the height of irresponsibility to dismiss the American moves out of hand, and simply to repeat that future generations will have to deal with a problem whose solution has eluded us.

To reject Mr. Shultz' current proposals is not to dismiss the concept of the United States, the Soviet Union or other third parties exploring the possibilities of breakthroughs in the diplomatic process.

We were convinced by Mr. Shultz' last tour that the United States has been unable to budge the strange coalition government in Israel, and therefore has tried to solicit more concessions from the Arabs.

That approach will not work, and Jordan made that clear in releasing its principles for a negotiated settlement and in the several pronouncements on the subject during the past two weeks by His Majesty the King.

It should be clear now to the United States that we welcome the efforts and initiatives of would-be mediators, whether they come from East, West or in between. But we also insist that such parties assume the role and responsibility of a genuine mediator, and not, as the United States has largely tried to do, to support the positions of one protagonist while trying to get the other protagonists to make endless concessions.

If the United States feels it cannot be more clear about its own position on vital issues—such as a full withdrawal from the occupied territories, the role of the PLO, the status of Jerusalem or the right of the Palestinians to national self-determination—then the honourable thing for it to do would be to admit this, rather than to dish out diplomatic mumbo-jumbo that is sugar-coated with moralistic bombast.

If the Israelis will not budge, and the Americans will not push them to budge, then the honest conclusion is that this is not the moment for a negotiated peace.

A new Israeli or American leadership might change the equation, and unblock the stalemate. We might have to wait for such developments. In the meantime would-be mediators will always be welcome here, but they should not confuse a welcoming attitude with a capacity for eternal patience or endless proposals for compromise.

Paper on Plans for Convening Mideast Conference

JN061216 Paris AL-WAFIQ AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic 3 May 88 pp 1, 15

[Excerpts] AL-WIFAQ has learned that the visit by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' to the Jordanian capital last Thursday had to do with an Arab political action plan on the convocation of an international peace conference.

Syrian sources said President Hafiz al-Asad's letter that Al-Shar' delivered to King Husayn contained specific points on the political action plan and the joint coordination among Jordan, Syria, and the PLO. The sources said that King Husayn had explained his viewpoint on this plan.

Syrian and Jordanian sources had mentioned that Damascus seeks to coordinate the Syrian, Jordanian, and PLO stands in the next stage, and that among the points Syria views as very important for safeguarding a unified Arab stand and settling the question of Palestinian representation is the point dealing with attending the international conference in a joint Arab delegation.

President al-Asad affirmed that the call for a unified delegation is also a Palestinian call and one of the important points on which agreement has been reached with the Soviets.

In the Syrian viewpoint, negotiations should take place between only two delegations—an Arab and an Israeli delegation. Committees will then be formed from these two delegations to discuss issues dealing with borders, withdrawals, water, and security.

The sources said that Jordan did not object to the idea of a joint delegation but has asked questions on which party will head this delegation, on the prerogatives of these committees, on who will speak for the Palestinians, and about the future of the Palestinian territories.

Jordan believes that the practical solution is through an Arab attendance that will comprise an independent Palestinian delegation. It also believes that the PLO alone should have the right to speak on behalf of the Palestinian people.

However, this will make it inevitable to hold bilateral talks with Israel at the end. Syria can speak on behalf of the Golan and Jordan on the occupied part of its territory in Wadi al-'Arabah.

The Jordanian questions on the idea of a joint Arab delegation raise the question of Egypt's participation in this delegation.

While Jordan and the PLO support Egypt's participation in the joint Arab delegation, Syria does not want Egypt to participate in this delegation. However, from the legal point of view, a Jordanian and Egyptian participation give international legal bases for the implementation of the UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions on the occupied territories, which were part of the two countries' territories and which Israel has occupied.

The Syrian president held two telephone contacts with King Husayn last week, 1 day after his meeting with Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat. During these telephone contacts, some details of the reconciliation and coordination plan with the PLO and Syrian-Palestinian relations were discussed. [passage omitted] On another level, informed Jordanian sources have stated that Jordan is being subjected to U.S. pressure to agree to the U.S. plan for peace in the Middle East and for it to abandon its call for an international conference that will be effective, will enjoy full prerogatives, and in which the PLO will participate. [passage omitted]

AL-DUSTUR Cites Document on 'Arab Jerusalem'

JN061056 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
6 May 88 p 2

[Excerpts] Amman (PETRA)—As a Hashemite, I will never, nor will anyone from my family or this country, ever violate the 'Umari Document [Al-Wathiqah al-'Umariyah] or bargain over a single inch of the land of Palestine, whatever the strength of Israel.

This is a part of what His Majesty King Husayn reaffirmed in his clear national speech to the shaykhs and dignitaries of Al-Mafraq Governorate on 4 May.

The 'Umari Document, which was written in 637 A.D. and which His Majesty King Husayn recalled in reiterating his abidance by it, merits a discussion of its purport and dimensions out of faithfulness to this document and also to King Husayn's abidance by its substance and aims. Text of the Document [subhead]

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

This is the safe conduct which the servant of God the Amir of the Faithful [Caliph] 'Umar [ibn al-Khattab] gave to the people of Aelia [Capitolina—Roman name for Jerusalem].

He gave them safe conduct for themselves, their properties, their churches, and crucifixes as well as their leaders, innocent ones, and all members of their community.

Their churches shall not be occupied or destroyed and their precincts shall not be violated. Their crucifixes and properties shall not be seized. They shall not be forced to change their religion and no harm shall befall them.

None of the Jews shall reside with the people of Aelia Capitolina. The people of Aelia Capitolina shall pay head tax like the inhabitants of other cities. The Romans and robbers must leave.

Those who leave shall enjoy safe conduct for themselves and their properties until they reach their safe haven. Those who decide to stay shall be safe.

They shall pay head tax like the people of Aelia Capitolina. Those among the people of Aelia Capitolina who decide to leave with the Romans, take their properties with them, and abandon their allegiance and crucifix, shall enjoy safe conduct for themselves, their allegiance, and crucifix until they reach their safe haven. All others who decide to stay shall pay head tax like the people of Aelia Capitolina.

He who decides to leave with the Romans is free, and he who decides to return is also free. Nothing shall be levied on him until he reaps his crop. This document is made under a pledge to God, to His prophet, may the peace and blessings of God be upon him, to the caliphs, and to the faithful, if they pay the head tax levied on them.

This was witnessed by [Muslim commanders] Khalid ibn al-Walid, 'Umar ibn al-'As, 'Abd al-Rahman ibn 'Awf, and Mu'awiyah ibn Abu Sufyan.

Written and certified in the year 637 A.D. [passage omitted]

Fayiz Jabir, secretary general of the Royal Committee for Jerusalem Affairs, has spoken on the historic dimension of this document. He said:

This document was the pledge, which the caliph of the faithful, 'Umar ibn al-Khattab, made at the time to the people of Aelia Capitolina in Jerusalem when he received the city from its people.

He made a pledge before God to preserve properties and churches, safeguard rights, and achieve security and peace for all the people of the City of Jerusalem.

This was 14 centuries ago, when the Islamic conquest swept Palestine and Syria, liberating them from the colonialist foreign Roman rule, and also liberated Iraq from the rule of the Persian Empire.

As for the original inhabitants of Jerusalem, they were Christain and non-Christian Arabs, including Aramaeans, Canaanites, Amorites, and Jebusites, who were a branch of the Canaanites.

When His Majesty King Husayn referred to the 'Umari Document, he wanted to prove and assert the historical Arab identity of the city, which continued under Arab Islamic sovereignty for 14 centuries.

Husayn, who is a Koreishite and Hashemite king, is an extension of the Arab Islamic history, which began in the land of Greater Syria [Bilad al-Sham] in 637 A.D.

As pointed out by the king and reaffirmed on all occasions, this document on the Arabism and Islamism of Jerusalem confirms a just and inalienable historical right. Our sovereignty over the city is only disputed by the Israeli tyranny, of which King Husayn is trying hard to rid the holy city.

Fighting Between Amal, Hizballah Continues

Kan'an Warns Combatants

NC0905105488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 9 May 88

[Excerpt] Following his talks with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an disclosed that Syria is distributing a new working paper, prepared by President Amin al-Jumayyil, among the various parties to ascertain their views.

Regarding the fighting between Amal and Hizballah in the southern suburb, Kan'an said: We informed the warring parties of the impermissibility of a continuation of the status quo.

Asked if a security plan similar to that for West Beirut has been drafted for the suburb, he said: We hope the situation will not deteriorate to that extent. However, he added, we will not allow the bloodshed to continue. [passage omitted]

Amal Launches Counterattacks

NC0905124088 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] According to our latest reports, Amal Movement forces began counterattacks early this morning to regain the positions from which they retreated earlier in the fighting.

Amal sources noted the movement's forces succeeded in advancing in the Al-Ghubayrah area and strengthened their positions in Harat Hurayk. These sources added that Amal forces have taken control of the Al-Shiyah approach to Hayy Madi.

They have also seized a number of buildings, including the Ministry of Public Works, and the main road between Al-Musharrafiyah and the Mar Mikhayil church. The sources said that early this morning Hizballah gunmen launched an attack on the Amal Movement operational headquarters and that Amal forces repulsed the attack.

Meanwhile, the bodies of Sayf Hamadah, his brother, and Mahmud Rahhal, who are members of the Amal Movement, were found in Bi'r al-'Abd today. Security sources said that the bodies, which were mutilated, were taken to the American University Hospital. Security sources have not been able to determine the death toll from today's fighting.

Casualties Exceed 500

NC0905130588 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 9 May 88

[Excerpts] Amal and Hizballah continued to fight intermittently in areas of the southern suburb today. Meanwhile, efforts and contacts also continued in an attempt to end the clashes and to consolidate the cease-fire.

According to the latest reports, the fighting has subsided and is currently restricted to Al-Ghubayrah, Harat Hurayk, and Hayy Mu'awwad, where sporadic machinegun fire is heard. [passage omitted]

According to security sources, over 500 persons have been killed or wounded since the fighting erupted. [passage omitted]

Clashes Spread to Hayy Ba'thur

NC0905153788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] The clashes in the southern suburb are currently centered at the entrances to Harat Hurayk and the area around the Amal Movement's central operations room on the airport road.

They have also spread to Hayy Ba'thur. At noon today Al-Shiyah came under violent artillery shellfire that reached Rawdat al-Shahidayn. Shells have also fallen on Al-'Amiliyah line.

According to a security report, travel along the Al-Maramil-Al-Awza'i and the airport-Shatila circle roads is risky because of sniper fire.

Hospital sources in West Beirut indicate that at least 10 people were killed and 37 others wounded as a result of the clashes that took place between Amal and Hizballah in the southern suburb this morning.

Kan'an Condemns Clashes

NC0905161888 Beirut Domestic Service in English 1510 GMT 9 May 88

[Excerpts] There has been widespread condemnation of the continued clashes in the southern suburb between forces of Amal Movement and Hizballah. The chief of Syrian intelligence in Lebanon, Brigadier Ghazi Kan'an, declared flatly today that bloodshed on this scale is totally unacceptable.

He called for immediate steps to resolve the problems of the southern suburb. [passage omitted]

At noon, Brig Kan'an held an hour-long meeting with acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, after which he expressed hope that fighting in the suburb will end soon. He noted that Syrian forces, or officers, were available to work with committees set up to end the fighting.

He admitted that Syria has sent an ultimatum to both sides warning them to find a solution before Syrian forces are called upon to search for a solution.

He refused to comment on a question related to the possible deployment of Syrian forces in the suburb, but repeated that Syria would not allow such bloodshed to continue indefinitely.

Hizballah Said in Control

NC0905184088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 9 May 88

[Excerpts] Syria's increased attempts to contain the explosive situation in the southern suburb have as yet failed to bear fruit. Fighting broke out this afternoon following a period of relative calm. [passage omitted]

While the war of statements is on the rise, clashes are still in progress in more than one area, though they subside sometimes and flare up at others. The committees formed by the two warring parties, Iranian Embassy representatives, and Syrian observers have not been able to reach the battleground.

The warring parties have paid no attention to the repeated appeals from their leaders and others to end the fighting, which is centered in the area of Al-Musharrafiyah, Harat Hurayk, and the outskirts of Al-Shiyah.

According to Hizballah sources, the party is in control of the southern suburb between Mar Mikha'il and the airport circle. The same sources add that some Hizballah units are in control of several Amal centers in this area following a large-scale defection by Amal elements, and that the airport road, from the Qasqas Circle to the airport bridge and as far as the Al-Rasul Mosque, is coming under Hizballah fire.

The sources add that Hizballah is in control of Amal's command headquarters in Burj al-Barajinah, despite Amal's violent efforts to regain it. [passage omitted]

Hizballah sources stated this evening that the situation is still volatile, despite the contacts made in this respect, but that Hizballah is in full control of the situation on the ground.

Security sources noted that the Syrian occupation forces have beefed up their units on the airport road as they are facing Hizballah in some areas.

A political source close to Syria has disclosed that the Amal Movement brought 5,000 of its members into the battlefield in the suburb and noted that the movement is determined to continue the fighting until it tightens its grip on the area. [passage omitted]

Syrians Not To Enter Suburb

NC0905174788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] Fighting between Amal and Hizballah has been raging since Friday. According to sources in the southern suburb, Ja'farite Mufti 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan has proposed to the Iranian ambassadors in Beirut and Damascus that a Syrian security force enter the suburb.

The Iranians, however, replied that Syria has rejected the proposal and that Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an declared that the Syrian forces cannot act as a disengagement force between the brothers.

Committees Working in Suburb

NC0905184288 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] According to the latest information from the southern suburb, the six joint committees continue to perform their tasks on the ground, particularly in the areas of Harat Hurayk and Al-Ghubayrah, in order to achieve a complete cease-fire, a withdrawal of gunmen, and restoration of normalcy.

The six committees include representatives of the Amal Movement, Hizballah, the Syrian Arab forces, and the Iranian Embassy in Beirut. The committees began their work at 1730 today.

Meanwhile, clashes in the areas of Bi'r al-'Abd, Harat Hurayk, and Al-Shiyah have eased, with only sporadic machinegun fire now being exchanged.

Amal Amasses 2,500 for Assault

NC0905193888 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] Security reports from the southern suburb have emphasized that violent clashes have resumed in Harat Hurayk and Al-Ghubayrah, thus violating the cease-fire sponsored by the Iranian Embassy and the Syrian command in the southern suburb.

Meanwhile, security sources affirmed a short time ago that there are large groups of Amal forces near the Al-Rasul al-A'zam mosque on the airport road. These forces have gathered for an attack on Hizballah positions in the southern suburb. Informed security sources estimate that the Amal gunmen, who have come from Al-Biqa' and the South, number over 2,500.

Syria Oversees Truce

NC0905205688 Paris AFP in English 2031 GMT 9 May 88

[Excerpts] Beirut, May 9 (AFP)—Syria sent 36 soldiers into the embattled southern suburbs of the Lebanese capital Monday evening, to oversee a truce as fighting between rival Shi'ite militias subsided, Syrian military officials said.

It was the first time that Syria, which maintains 10,000 troops in West Beirut, had deployed soldiers inside the crowded Shi'ite suburbs, where the pro-Syrian Amal and the Iranian-backed Hizballah have waged pitched street battles since Friday.

The death toll from the fighting climbed above 100 on Monday, according to hospital officials, amid charges of atrocities from both sides.

The clashes tapered off at dusk and stopped after six mixed committees charged with overseeing the cease-fire took up positions in the suburbs, police said.

In addition to the 36 Syrian soldiers, the committees included Iranian Embassy officials and representatives of Amal and Hizballah.

The limited Syrian intervention came after General Ghazi Kan'an, head of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon, warned that Syria "will not allow any further bloodletting."

Acting Lebanese Prime Minister Salim al-Huss had urged Syria to send in troops to restore order in the suburbs, a Lebanese Government source said after a meeting between the two men.

The truce was brokered during an afternoon meeting at the Iranian Embassy, Syrian military officials said.

The three-point agreement calls on Amal and Hizballah to observe a cease fire, to withdraw from the streets, and to return to the positions held before the fighting erupted four days earlier. [passage omitted]

Amal and Hizballah were fighting out their differences in the labyrinthine streets of a 22-square-kilometer (8.8-square-miles) area that is home to 300,000 people. The two Shi'ite militias have shared control of the slum-like suburbs since 1985. [passage omitted]

Hizballah To Honor Cease-Fire

NC0905213088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] In a statement issued a short while ago Hizballah reiterated its commitment to the cease-fire agreement in the suburbs. Hizballah accused what it called the war criminal of endeavoring to torpedo the positive results of initiatives and appeals calling for an end to the fighting. Hizballah denied reports from Amal sources that it had liquidated Amal members and mutilated their bodies. It affirms that such rumors are intended to obstruct all efforts to establish a cease-fire.

UNIFIL Contingent Fires on Israeli Patrol

NC0905133188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] According to travelers arriving from the Al-'Urqub area in the South, there is tension between the Norwegian UNIFIL contingent and the Israeli troops in the area.

Both sides have been on alert as a result. The tension started when Norwegian soldiers opened fire at an Israel patrol that was trying to set up an artillery emplacement north of the village of Al-Habbariyah, an area under the control of the Norwegian contingent.

Israeli Helicopters Raid Southern Village

NC0905132188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] Two Israeli helicopters raided the town of Qabrikha at 1400 today, destroying a house at the entrance to the town.

Israeli Navy Arrests 2 Fishermen Near Tyre

NC0905190488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] An Israeli naval force arrested two Lebanese fishermen in the Lebanese territorial waters off the Tyre coast early today, and carted them off to an unknown destination.

Security sources have said that two Israeli rubber boats intercepted the fishing boat and forced the three men aboard to board one of the two rubber boats. The same sources added that one of the fishermen was later released.

Israeli Helicopters Rake Forest With Machineguns

NC0905203288 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] Our correspondent in the western sector in the South has reported that Israeli warplanes flew intensive sorties at a low altitude and dropped flares over three sectors in the South tonight.

It is also worth noting that three Israeli helicopters flew over the hills of Bayt Yahun, Haddathah, and Rshaf at noon today and raked the forests of Haddathah with heavy-caliber machinegun fire.

Bomb Kills 2 SLA Soldiers in Security Zone
TA0705105288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] Two South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldiers were killed this morning by a remote control roadside bomb. The incident occurred on the northern edge of the security zone.

The Voice of Israel reporter in the north says the bomb was planted by terrorists who came from the north, and was set off as the SLA patrol was passing.

The SLA combed the area in the event more than one charge had been planted.

SLA Shells Targets North of Security Zone
TA0705172588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] Three Lebanese civilians were killed and about 20 houses damaged in heavy shelling directed by South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldiers at Shi'ite villages north of the security zone.

The shelling came in retaliation for the death of two SLA soldiers this morning caused by a roadside bomb planted and detonated by a terrorist squad.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht has learned from the UNIFIL Command that SLA tanks and artillery this afternoon fired more than 100 shells at five Shi'ite villages, especially at Shaqra and Bra'shit.

Businessman Reveals French Deal With Iran
PM0905110988 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 May 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "'Umran Adham Talks to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT"]

[Text] London—Syrian businessman 'Umran Adham, who has been deported from France on the orders of Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, has announced that he intends to return to France early next week.

He told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the decision to deport him was a temporary one made for internal French considerations.

Adham added that he was seen off at the airport by a representative of French President Francois Mitterrand, with whom he still maintains close friendly relations.

He also said that he has been contacted by Syrian officials inviting him to stay and rest in Damascus, and that he intends to go there within the next 10 days.

Speaking from his new headquarters in Geneva, Adham revealed that the French Government has paid Iran $628 million in return for the release of the French hostages held in Lebanon.

That sum, he said, was the last installment of Iranian funds previously held by the French Government. The sum was paid 3 weeks ago, in addition to valuable gifts sent to the kidnappers.

Adham, who had lived in France for a long time and is described by foreign and Arab media as a personal friend of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, said that all the contacts he had previously made for the release of the hostages failed because certain French circles politicized the issue.

He denied making any contacts with the Iranians. He added: It has become clear to me that my deportation was one of the [Iranian] conditions because of my support for Iraq in the war and my opposition to the occupation of any Arab territory, and also because of my opposition to the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner "Al-Jabiriyah" and my condemnation of the holy Mecca incidents and the anarchy the Iranians tried to create during the pilgrimage season.

Adham also talked about the history of his acquaintance with President al-Asad and his brother and about his wealth and contacts.

UK 'Connivance' With Mosad Viewed
JN092058 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 May 88

[Palestine Broadcast: From the "On the Events" feature]

[Text] At a time when more than one fact has been exposed in Britain proving Mosad's exploitation of British soil on the one hand, and its use of forged British passports on the other in executing terrorist and subversive operations or preparing for such operations—as was confirmed by numerous British newspaper reports in Britain itself—the British Government has not taken any practical measures against Zionist terrorism.

Regarding the assassination of Palestinian struggler and artist Naji Al 'Ali, the British Government handed the criminal who admitted his connection with Mosad over to the Zionist entity. It even protected this criminal and facilitated Mosad's operations and criminal activities, since this organization's agents on British soil do not have to face any punishment for the crimes they commit.

This is, without a doubt, one of the most extreme forms of connivance that a state can reach in dealing with terrorism. The British security organs kept quiet about the murderers and the discovery of a weapons cache used for terrorist acts taht was in the possession of Mosad agents. They did not even question the Mosad agents for their illegal possession of these weapons.

Robert Adley, a member of the British House of Commons, urged the summoning of the British ambassador in Tel Aviv to protest this incident, but his words fell on the deaf ears of the Thatcher government.

Undoubtedly, the Thatcher government cannot absolve itself of the responsibility of conniving with the Zionists in their terrorist crimes, even if it were to take the above measure.

This is because Britain has turned a blind eye to the destructive Zionist activity which uses British soil and British passports as its tools. And whoever turns a blind eye to terrorist and destructive crimes is, in the final analysis, an accomplice to these crimes.

Paper Cited on Iraq's 'Suspect' Regional Role
JN081601 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1140 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] Damascus, 8 May (SANA)—The newspaper TISHRIN stated that one does not need to think much in order to discover the real identity of the Iraqi regime. This regime boasts about pan-Arab slogans while placing itself in the arms of the fiercest enemies of the pan-Arab cause; namely, the United States, Israel's strategic ally, and providing it with all facilities and justifications to occupy Gulf waters and coasts and achieve whatever occupations that may realize the imperialist and Zionist interests of the United States.

In its weekly editorial today, the paper asks: How can such a regime raise a slogan and pursue something contrary to it? How can it, for example, raise slogans of progress while seeking the protection of U.S. fleets?

The Iraqi regime believes it uses the U.S. fleets to carry out military or security tasks that serve its suspect regional role. In fact, the U.S. fleets use this regime to achieve strategic U.S. objectives that are identical to the Zionist objectives in Palestine.

TISHRIN adds: It is easy for us to see how this is taking place and how the United States pursued this mission in a way that has exposed the Iraqi regime and turned it into a small tool that serves both U.S. and Israeli interests.

The paper says: It goes without saying that the Iraqi regime thinks it has obtained the price of the role it has played and continues to play in favor of the United States so that the latter may dominate the region.

However, the entire Arab nation will pay the price at the expense of its own land, dignity, and future. There is a serious and huge difference between the price the Iraqi regime thinks it has exacted and the price the Arab nation will pay.

This difference is equal to the magnitude of the pan-Arab catastrophe this regime has inflicted on the Arab nation. This nation will continue to suffer from the effects of this catastrophe for a long time.

Commentary Says Israel Taking 'Moral Beating'

JN071349 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1135 GMT 7 May 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Israel's war minister, Yitzhaq Rabin, has threatened other military sweeps into Lebanon in pursuit of terrorists and to deter attacks against Israel.

The threat was made in the wake of the aggression against Lebanese territory and the devastation of the Lebanese village of Maydun. This operation was seen by some international circles as an attempt to divert attention from developments in the occupied land.

Others have interpreted the Israeli incursion as a harbinger of direct Israeli intervention in Lebanon's international affairs prior to the constitutional date of the country's presidential elections.

Still other circles have explained the Israeli incursion in terms of something of a provocation of Syria which has forces deployed on Lebanese territory. Others have understood the Israeli operation as an attempt to consecrate Israel's control over parts of southern Lebanon, which Israel misnames the security belt, and to depopulate nearby territory to make it easier for Israeli rulers to deal with in the future just like they and their predecessors dealt with Palestinian land.

Some of these interpretations might fit in nicely with the mentality of Israel's rulers and their handling of the fix in which the Palestinian uprising has placed them.

All these interpretations have, however, failed to grasp the fact that neither the Israeli aggression against Lebanon nor Rabin's threats can change the course of events inside or outside the occupied land or bail Israel out of the debt it will have to settle regionally and internationally.

More specifically, Israel will have to recognize the full, national rights of the Palestinian Arab people and evacuate the occupied Arab land. Gone are the days when Israeli leaders' utterances caused fear and elicited negative Arab reactions.

Also gone forever is the myth of the invincible Israel army—the army that took a beating from the nationalist Lebanese resistance, which forced it to pull back.

At a loss as to how to beat resistance mounted by a peaceful people armed with nothing more than a national will and stones, the Israeli army is taking a moral beating.

Even hints dropped by Israel's leaders about their possession of advanced and possibly nuclear weapons no longer cut any ice. This is because such weapons will not decide the conflict in Israel's favor, as it will receive potentially unbearable blows.

Israel's adventures across the border will do nothing to help it put down the uprising 6 months after it erupted. Israeli leaders will have to address the uprising's consequences both internally and internationally.

If by the aggressions against Lebanese territory the Israeli leaders seek to poke their noses into Lebanon's domestic affairs, their arm has grown too short and feeble.

Those who wager on the Israeli option have been reduced to a handful of outcasts in the Lebanese arena. Certainly Lebanon will not have a pro-Israeli president.

As for provoking Syria, Israeli leaders would do well to do a lot of thinking before embarking on such a course of action. They know only too well the price involved.

They had better recall the fate of their armor brigade in the Sultan Ya'qub battle during the 1982 invasion of Lebanon. The Israeli leaders must also realize that Syria will not relinquish its total support for the Palestinian uprising.

Nor will it cease championing Palestinian rights and their struggle to liberate their land with all the means at its disposal.

The occupiers must leave the occupied Arab land. This is the kind of equitable, workable solution we want. Aggression can only bring distress to its perpetrators. An Israeli pullout must include the Lebanese territory.

Unless Israel evacuates the occupied Arab land and unreservedly recognizes Palestinian rights there can be neither peace nor a settlement. Eventually, it will be the aggressors and occupiers who will bear the cost of their aggressive actions.

Paper on U.S. 'Intervention' in Gulf

JN050809 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 5 May 88

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH deals with the dangers posed by the U.S. intervention in the Arabian Gulf. The paper affirms that the United States persisted in aggravating the Gulf's atmosphere, taking advantage of the war that the Iraqi regime launched against the Iranian revolution.

This planned exploitation of developments in the war aims to reinforce the U.S. military presence in the Gulf region, to control the region by spreading horror there, and to secure facilities that will serve the future U.S. military intervention in this oil-rich region.

Within this context, the United States has further inflamed the war and begun to consider its political objectives in accordance with its policy of pretext, which has not hesitated to intervene directly as a party to the war by bombarding Iranian oil platforms more than once and turning the Gulf into a U.S.-NATO lake.

The United States, which formed the Rapid Deployment Force to invade and besiege the oilfields, has worked to obtain many bases and facilities in the Egypt of the Camp David accords and in Somalia.

It is attempting to obtain additional bases using pretexts to reinforce its naval miltiary concentrations in the Gulf waters. It dragged the NATO fleets into the region on the pretext of joining them in protecting oil routes.

With the U.S. escalation, whose features and objectives are clear, U.S. President Ronald Reagan has made a serious decision under the slogan of expanding the tasks of the U.S. war fleet in the Gulf.

This means the U.S. Administration has granted itself the right to safeguard shipping routes in the Arabian Gulf for propagandistic purposes. In fact, the U.S. Administration has granted itself the right to control these routes and to impose conditions of imperialist hegemony from a position of military power on all regional states and peoples.

AL-THAWRAH explains that if this decision is compared to the nature and essence of U.S. obejctives in the Gulf, we will note the grave danger posed to the whole Gulf region by the U.S. fleets.

The paper says Washington cannot be a reliable party in such tasks because Washington is actually the one threatening not only shipping but the entire region. The U.S. military presence is aggressive and cannot conform to the requirements and conditions of secure shipping in the Gulf.

The United States, which grants itself the right to carry out a role that must be played by international forces within the UN framework, forgets or pretends to forget that by doing so it will increase tension in the Gulf.

The Gulf is a sensitive region, and any large military explosion in it may threaten world peace and security with the gravest dangers.

Afghanistan

Southern Rebels Assure Soviet Troops Safe Exit

BK1005131688 Hong Kong AFP in English 1308 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] Islamabad, May 10 (AFP)—Mujahidin rebels in southern Afghanistan have announced they will allow Soviet troops to leave the area peacefully, Western diplomats said here Tuesday.

The mujahidin have distributed leaflets in Ghazni town assuring Soviet troops due to begin withdrawing Sunday that they would be allowed a peaceful exit from the area so long as they did not loot as they left.

At the same time, the guerrillas warned local residents to stay indoors in case fighting does break out, the diplomats said.

This is first open declaration by any rebel group that it would not attack Soviet troops, who are due to begin leaving Afghanistan on Sunday under the terms of the April 14 Geneva accord between Kabul and Islamabad.

The Hezb-e Eslami group led by Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, who is current chairman of the seven-party resistance alliance, has said he "will not spare" withdrawing Soviet troops. Some diplomats have warned of the possibility of severe retaliation if Soviet troops are attacked during the pullout.

Under the United Nations-mediated Geneva accord, 50 percent of an estimated 115,000 Soviet troops are to leave by mid-August and the remainder over the next six months.

Moscow has also offered to stop bombing civilian areas near Baghram Air Base north-east of Kabul if the mujahidin agree to stop rocket attacks on the capital's main base, the diplomats said.

The offer follows stepped up guerrilla rocket attacks on Kabul, the diplomats said, adding that they had no information on the rebel response to the Soviet proposal.

Meanwhile, mujahidin guerrillas have been massing in northern Logar Valley where Soviet-Afghan troops abandoned two major security posts last week, the diplomats said.

The pro-Soviet government has continued deploying troops to the south and east of the capital, they said, adding that the Rishkor and Lataband bases in Kabul's outer defense perimeter had been reinforced.

The authorities have also imposed a ban on private traffic on the Salang highway to be used by the withdrawing troops.

Drivers said their permits to operate between Kabul and the Soviet border at Heratan will be suspended for 22 days from Saturday.

The diplomats said the ban was to keep the Salang highway clear of traffic in order "to facilitate the rapid withdrawal" of Soviet troops.

Security has continued to deteriorate in Afghanistan's second largest city Qandahar, forcing India to close its consulate there, the diplomats said.

All Indian nationals have been withdrawn and the consulate was being looked after by an Afghan caretaker who ensured the Indian flag was flown each day, they said. The Indian Consulate in Jalalabad was closed last month.

The closure order was issued on the last day of Afghan leader Dr. Najibullah's trip to New Delhi last week.

"The Kabul regime's attempt to present the visit as an expression of confidence by India in it fell somewhat flat, in as much as the Indian Government closed its only remaining consulate in Afghanistan," the diplomats said.

The Indian move followed the fall of the Shah Wali Kot District on April 30 and the evacuation of nearby Arghandab town by Soviet troops, they said, adding that heavy fighting was under way in Arghestan which borders Maruf District captured by the guerrillas in mid-April.

Troops were now concentrating around the city's airport and other vital installations, the diplomats said.

UN Monitoring Group Chief Comments on Plans

BK0905034388 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] Head of the UN monitoring group [on implementation of the Geneva accords], Major General Helminen, has said he is making arrangements for transport facilities and other things in connection with the task of monitoring the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan.

In an interview in Islamabad, he said he has not yet officially been informed of the exact number of Soviet troops in Afghanistan. He said this is a very important part of those details he needs to know to accomplish his mission.

Major General Helminen had an exchange of views in Kabul recently on transport arrangements in connection with the withdrawal of troops. He expressed the hope he will be able to make one more visit to the Afghan capital before the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan under the Geneva accords. He reaffirmed that it is the responsibility of the parties concerned to provide necessary protection to the group so it can discharge its duties.

Najibullah Receives Airborne Assault Youths
LD0805232088 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] This morning in the presidential headquarters in Salam Khanah Hall, Esteemed Najibullah received the volunteer members of the DYOA section of the airborne assault forces.

The BIA military section reports that at 0900 Esteemed Najibullah went to the gathering site of the youths' battalion, accepted their military salute, and inspected the unit.

Esteemed Najibullah delivered a comprehensive speech to the battalion of the airborne assault unit. He said: You are on your way today to carry out your duty and repay your debt to the nation through service to the land, the people, and the revolution.

As you young people organize in the airborne assault force, both words—youth and airborne—are full of meaning and imbued with valor, bravery, selflessness, and sacrifice.

If our aim is to dry the orphans' tears, halt the increase of black chadors, stop the wails and screams of widows, and to not have gray-haired and gray-bearded fathers burying their sons, we should deliver a convincing and smashing response to those who want black chadors to proliferate and want to settle everything through the barrel of a gun, and to those who want the wails and screams of widows to continue. This is the dialectics of peace and war.

The president added that Afghanistan has courageous men, children, and youths who struggle for every inch of their land and sacrifice to defend national independence and sovereignty for revolutionary sovereignty and the sovereignty of the people of Afghanistan,

The BIA military section reporter adds that a volunteer youth, on behalf of all the others, said it was an honor to defend their fatherland, beautiful Afghanistan, with the title, traditions, and badge of the assault unit.

He promised to carry out the tasks that lie ahead of them with high patriotic responsibility.

During the meeting the mother of one of the youths of the independent assault battalion talked to the youths about their duties to defend the revolution, the country, and the people, and demanded they pay their debt to the motherland.

During the meeting the deputy commander of the independent assault battalion, on behalf of other officers, promised to conscientiously train both militarily and politically the youths of the independent assault battalion and to provide them with better living conditions.

Farid Ahmad Mazdak, the first secretary of the DYOA, school boys and girls, and many volunteer youths were also present at the meeting. The report says that the staff of the independent assault battalion took the oath this morning, and children gave them flowers as they left to perform their duties.

Koshani Returns From Poland, Soviet Union
LD0905191188 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] Mahbubullah Koshani, deputy prime minister and head of the State Planning Committee, today returned to Kabul after leading a delegation to the Polish People's Republic and the Soviet Union.

During its visit to Poland, the delegation held talks on economic, technical, and scientific cooperation. The delegation signed a protocol for a power engineering project valued at 40 million rubles with the USSR Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations.

BIA reported that the delegation was met at Kabul International Airport by Deputy Prime Minister Abdulhamid Mohtat; Justice Minister Muhammad Bashir Baghlani; the leadership of the State Planning Committee; and Petrov, economic counseller at the USSR Embassy in Kabul.

Leaders Send Messages to CSSR Counterparts
LD0905191288 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and PDPA general secretary, and Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand have sent congratulatory messages to Milos Jakes, general secretary of the CPCZ; His Excellency Gustav Husak, president of the CSSR; and CSSR Premier Lubomir Strougal. [no mention of occasion as heard]

The messages laud the peaceful policy of Czechoslovakia, and expresses gratitude for Czechoslovakia's support for the national reconciliation policy of the Republic of Afghanistan and for the Geneva accords.

Furthermore, the messages note that the close relations between the people and governments of the two countries will expand.

'Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, has sent a message of congratulations to Bohuslav Chnoupek, CSSR minister foreign affairs.

Deputy Premier Receives CSSR Youth Delegation
AU0505104388 Bratislava SMENA in Slovak
4 May 88 p 1

[Zbynek Fiala Kabul dispatch: "The Key Word Is Reconciliation; Second Day Spent by Socialist Youth Union Central Committee Delegation in Afghanistan"]

[Text] If the original owner returns, he will get his house back within 2 months, we were told by Hasan Sharq, deputy prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, as he pointed to the premises now occupied by his office in order to provide us with a clear proof of the policy of national reconciliation.

The returnees will receive all their rights; they will have jobs in the same field as those they relinquished; and students can go back to school. At the same time, all returnees are provided with special documents entitling them to leave the country again within a 6-month period.

We are doing all of this in order to strengthen trust in our policy, our host stressed. A total of 124,000 people have already returned to our country; fewer than 10,000 have left it again.

The reception by Hasan Sharq, who is also chairman of the Society of Afghan-Czechoslovak Friendship, is in the second day of his official visit to the Republic of Afghanistan, accompanied by a delegation of the Socialist Youth Union Central Committee, led by Jozef Durica, the union's deputy chairman and chairman of its Slovak Central Committee.

Central Election Commission Announcement
LD0905171888 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto
1130 GMT 8 May 88

["Announcement by the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Afghanistan"—BAKHTAR headline]

[Excerpt] Kabul, 9 May (BAKHTAR)—As our compatriots know, the Central Election Commission for elections to the National Assembly met on 22 April. The meeting, which was chaired by Abdurrahim Hatif, chairman of the Central Commission, was also attended by Afghan President Najibullah.

The results of the elections to the National Assembly were assessed at the meeting and, according to the electoral law, the names of the elected members were registered.

Elections took place in a free and democratic atmosphere in 184 wards for 234 seats to the Council of Representatives; 48 seats are reserved for the opposition.

Elections in Ward 96 of Takhar Province were cancelled because of legal violations, and elections were not held in Ward 233 of Jaji district because they were not correctly organized.

Elections for senators were held in 51 wards. The total number of wards for elected senators is 64, 13 seats of which are reserved for the opposition. In addition, another 64 senators were elected according to law to people's representative councils. [passage omitted]

Rebel Leader Rules Out Coalition Arrangement
LD0505172288 Tehran IRNA in English 1642 GMT
5 May 88

[Text] Islamabad, May 5, IRNA—The spokesman for the union of seven Afghan parties Gulbuddin Hikmatyar ruled out in Peshawar Wednesday any possibility that Afghan revolutionaries might form a coalition government with Kabul regime.

Hikmatyar said that the regime ruling Afghanistan is considered as a part of the Russian occupying troops, and the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries will never take part in a coalition government, a member of which being the head of Kabul ruling regime Muhammad Najibullah.

He rejected the possibility of any kind of negotiations—direct or indirect—between the Afghan revolutionaries and the Kabul regime, stressing that Afghan Muslim people will expel the Russian occupying troops and Najibullah as well.

'Extremists' Fail To Halt Refugees' Return
LD0705184788 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] BAKHTAR's military correspondent reports that an evil attempt by an armed extremist group to disrupt the peaceful life of the people of Chamkani District, Paktia Province, and to create obstacles to the return of refugees by firing heavy weapons, was prevented.

The report notes that the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan arrived in the region following a call from the National Reconciliation Commission and the peace-loving people of Paktia Province in order to maintain the security of our refugee compatriots during their return to the homeland.

The Armed Forces asked the extremist group to lay down their weapons and stop the fighting and bloodshed. However, the extremist group opened fire. The Armed Forces retaliated.

Heavy losses were inflicted on the extremist group, and a large number of their weapons and ammunition, including 23 reactive units [as heard], 16 mortars, 23 DShK's, 6 artillery weapons, 3 ammunition depots, and 600 antivehicle mines, were destroyed.

The Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, with high morale and preparedness, are always ready to safeguard peace and the life of our compatriots. In order to realize the policy of national reconciliation, they give a crushing reply to the warmongers and enemies of peace and security.

Missile Attack by 'Extremists' on Kabul Thwarted

LD0905185488 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] The BAKHTAR military section reports today that security forces prevented a surface-to-surface missile attack by extremists on Kabul City.

The noble people of Bagrami and Charasiab Districts, honoring their pledges to ensure peace and tranquillity in their regions, told the security forces the location of a surface-to-surface missiles in southeast Khakijabar District.

Before the extremists—those enemies of peace and compromise—were able to commit their evil act, the security forces dismantled and confiscated the missile, which was in position to fire.

Security Forces Crush 'Extremist' Leader

LD0905195588 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] According to a report by BAKHTAR's military section, a number of extremist groups' vehicles carrying arms and ammunition toward Shindand district, Herat Province, were seized by the country's security forces.

An armed extremist group that had been disturbing the peaceful life of the people in the Chamkani District, Paktia Province, was crushed by our country's armed forces.

A large amount of arms and ammunition, including 23 reactive systems [as heard], 16 mortars, 6 recoilless guns, 23 DShK's, and 3 ammunition depots were seized by the security forces.

Muhammad Amin, leader of the armed group, was among those crushed.

'Professional Criminals' Attack Kabul 9 May

LD1005134888 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 0600 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] Extremists, these professional criminals, have once again committed an un-Islamic and brutal act to disrupt our compatriots' peaceful life. This crime occurred on the evening of 9 May.

BIA's military section reports that at about 1800 on this evening, while Kabul inhabitants were preparing to break their fasts and fulfill God s ordinances, extremists used heavy weapons to fire on some of the residential areas of Kabul.

As a result, three taxi passengers who were hurrying home to break their fast in the area of Pol-e Mahmud Khan and a number of other compatriots, including children and women, were either martyred or wounded in the residential area of Microrayon and in other parts of the city.

Security officers and medical teams arrived at the areas affected and took the injured to hospitals for emergency treatment.

India

Bomb Explosion in Delhi Kills 1, Injures 7

BK1005084888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] In New Delhi, a bomb exploded at the reception of a bank located in a newly constructed multi-storied building, Jeevan Bharati, in Connaught Place. According to bank employees, the explosion occurred shortly after noon, when customers were waiting in the queue in front of the tellers.

Police has cordoned off the area and ordered evacuation of the building. The bomb disposal squad has been pressed into service to detect if any other explosive device was planted.

Police also said at least one person was killed and seven injured, three of them seriously. More than a dozen fire tenders have been deployed. Senior police officials are conducting the investigations.

Curfew Imposed After Golden Temple Shooting

BK0905125788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] In Amritsar indefinite curfew was clamped this afternoon in the old city area following exchange of fire between terrorists inside the Golden Temple and security forces posted outside.

The DIG [deputy inspector general] of CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force], Mr S.S. Virk, was injured in the shootout.

According to the official spokesman in Chandigarh the DIG along with the CRPF party had gone to prevent the unauthorized construction of a wall by terrorists obstructing a public passage outside the Golden Temple complex.

The terrorists then started firing indiscriminately. Sporadic firing from the Golden Temple was still continuing when reports last came in. The spokesman said Mr Virk, who has been admitted to hospital, is out of danger.

The head priest of the Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikh religion], Jathedar Jasbir Singh Rhode, has said that he is prepared to accept a settlement of Sikh demands within the framework of the constitution. He was talking to the BBC Delhi correspondent.

In the state, terrorists gunned down four persons in separate incidents since last night. Two farmers and the caretaker of a religious place were shot dead in village Harshima while one person was killed in Phagwara Town.

Home Minister's Statement

BK0905160588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 MT 9 May 88

[Text] The minister of state for home, Mr Chidambaram, made a statement in the Rajya Sabha on the latest situation in Amritsar. He said that CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] pickets found a fortification being constructed in one of the building toward Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikh religion].

A CRPF party headed by [Deputy Inspector General of Police] Mr Virk and suprintendent of police, Amritsar, went there to ascertain the facts and assess the situation. An exchange of fire took place between the security forces and the terrorists.

The minister said the situation in the city is fluid and tense. Firing is going on from both sides, according to the latest information received. He assured the house that government will come out with a statement on the situation tomorrow with detailed information.

1 'Terrorist,' 3 Others Killed

BK1005034088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] Four persons, including a terrorist, were killed in the exchange of fire between terrorists and the security forces in the Golden Temple complex area of Amritsar yesterday.

According to an official spokesman, three people died outside the complex while a terrorist was killed inside. One of the three killed outside, two had been injured yesterday.

While the terrorists fired from within the Golden Temple complex, the security forces returned the fire from outside. The spokesman said there was virtually no exchange of fire during the night.

All the journalists and others who were stranded inside the temple came out safely last night. One of the journalists was hit on the foot by a splinter.

Yesterday's firing started when a police party went to inspect unauthorized construction of a bunker by the terrorists in a private building outside the temple complex.

The DIG, CRPF, Mr S.S. Virk, received bullet injuries. The indefinite curfew, which was clamped in the old city of Amritsar following the exchange of fire, continues. The spokesman said the security forces will return the fire if the terrorists inside the complex fire on them.

Senior police and security forces officials led by the director general of police, Punjab, Mr K.P.S. Gill, held a prolonged meeting last night to take stock of the situation. Additional forces have been deployed all over the city.

The Punjab governor, Mr S.S. Ray, has asked the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee [SGPC] to flush out the terrorists from the complex. He said the SGPC being a legal body must ensure that the Golden Temple and other religious places under its control are not misused.

Speaking to newsmen at Purana Shel in Gurdaspur, Mr Ray said more pickets of security forces will be set up in the rural areas to protect life and property of the people.

Meanwhile, the number of persons killed in terrorist attack at Panipat has gone up to 14. One child injured in the firing has succumbed to injuries in the hospital.

Punjab Violence Continues; 2 'Terrorists' Killed

BK0905032088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] The directors generals of police of Haryana and Punjab and paramilitary forces are meeting in New Delhi today to review the latest law and order situation in view of the increased terrorist activities.

All northern states have been put on high alert. The Punjab roadways has suspended its bus services through Haryana as a precautionary measure following the Panipat killings yesterday.

Meanwhile, two more terrorists were killed in an encounter with the BSF [Border Security Force] in Gurdaspur District yesterday. One of them is identified as the dreaded terrorist Surjan Singh, involved in the massacre of 32 persons in Karishari village of Hoshiarpur District earlier this year.

Giving details, the director general of state police, Mr K.P.S. Gill, said that one BSF jawan [solider] was also killed in the encounter. Mr Gill said that large quantities of arms and ammunition, including four Chinese assault rifles, three other automatic weapons, and two hand grenades were recovered from the terrorists. One person was shot dead in Phagwara town of Gurdaspur District late last night.

'Counteroffensive' Against Terrorists Planned

BK0905151388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] The Center has decided to gear up security forces in the states and union territories adjacent to Punjab to plan and implement a counteroffensive against the terrorists.

This was stated at a high-level meeting convened by the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, in New Delhi today. The meeting reviewed security measures in Punjab and its neighboring areas.

The meeting was attended by the minister of state for home affairs, Mr Chidambaram, the home secretary, directors general of police from Punjab and Haryana, directors general of Border Security Force and CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force], commissioner of police of Delhi, and other senior officials.

High-Level Meeting Reviews Darjeeling Situation

BK0905151588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] The West Bengal chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, today reviewed the law and order situation in the Darjeeling hill areas at a high-level meeting in Siliguri. Later, addressing a press conference, he said the district administration has been further strengthened to deal with fresh violence in the area.

Mr Basu said his government did not introduce the Hill Development Council Bill in the current session of the State Assembly to create a congenial atmosphere for holding the tripartite talks on the Darjeeling issue.

Mr Basu also refuted the GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] of police atrocities on hill people.

Meanwhile, A CPI supporter was killed and four others injured when GNLF activists attacked some houses of the CPI supporters in Kurseong early this morning.

Oil Comission To Explore SRV Offshore Areas

BK0705034088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] The Oil and Natural Gas Commission [ONGC] is to conduct offshore exploration in Vietnam. The ONGC chairman, Colonel S.P. Wahi, told newsmen in Madras that a team will leave for Vietnam soon for the purpose.

He said ONGC hopes to produce 120 million tons of oil and gas [in India] by the turn of this century. He said the current year's target of 36 million tons can easily be achieved. Colonel Wahi said the oil drilling in Krishna, Godavari, and Cauvery Basin areas has been doubled and 22 rigs are functioning.

Minister of State for Power Resigns

BK0905153088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] Now here is a late message: The president, on the advice of the prime minister, has accepted the resignation of Mrs Sushila Rohatagi, minister of state for power, from the Central Council of Ministers.

Iran

Khamene'i Urges 'Mass Fervor' Against Israel

LD0905135788 Tehran IRNA in English 1024 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 9, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i here today called on Muslim leaders of congregational prayers worldwide to rouse the mass fervor against the regime occupying Al-Quds [Jerusalem] (?on the occasion) of the annual Al-Quds Day ceremonies May 13.

In his message he deplored the conciliatory policies of some Arab governments and specifically Cairo towards the regime occupying Al-Quds and said that Zionists have occupied Palestine and done much damage to Muslims mainly because (?Muslims) have tolerated the Zionist entity rather than choose to fight against it.

He said May 13 should mark a solidarity day of the Muslim world against the Zionist entity and a day presaging the eventual liberation of Al-Quds from the Zionists' hands and one marking the outcries of "Death to the U.S., Death to Istikbar (tyrannical world rulers and their systems), and Death to Israel."

President Khamene'i expressed hope that Muslim leaders of mass prayers, wherever they are, will exploit the forums at mosques and elsewhere as an occasion for reminding Muslims of their duties in relation with the universal Muslim struggle against the regime occupying Al-Quds. He also wished success and triumph for Muslims and Palestinians.

The annual Al-Quds Day celebrated in Iran and elsewhere in the Muslim world on the last Friday of the fasting month of Ramadan in the lunar Hegira calender year (this year on May 13) is marked by massive demonstrations in condemnation of the Zionist regime and emphasizes a universal Muslim solidarity in an eventual struggle with that regime.

Aqazadeh on Saudi Charges of Overproduction

LD0905205088 Tehran IRNA in English 1938 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 9, IRNA—Iranian oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh today predicted that the OPEC member countries will reach agreement on an oil production cut in the next OPEC session to be held in Vienna next month.

He believed that pressure and protest from other OPEC states would persuade Saudi Arabia to agree to a production cut.

Speaking at a press conference here Aqazadeh said it is no more tolerable for the OPEC members to see their revenues being affected by "enticements and desires of a single person or a single country".

He said during the OPEC consultative session held in Vienna last month, Saudi Arabia had been "exposed" before other members, adding that the session ended in a complete political defeat for the Riyadh regime both inside the organisation and before the non-OPEC countries.

"The eight members who agreed on a production cut of 300,000 barrels per day were even ready to implement it," Aqazadeh said.

Saudi Arabia and three other Arab members of OPEC turned down a proposal to cut OPEC output by 300,000 BPD [barrels per day] following an offer by non-OPEC countries to reduce their production in an attempt to prop up prices.

Aqazadeh expressed hope that Saudi Arabia would revise its stance in the next session.

Commenting on the recent remarks of the Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazir on a visit to Iran by OPEC auditors, he said they had postponed the visit at their own request and due to the Iraqi missile attacks on Iranian cities.

Nazir had claimed that Iran had not allowed OPEC auditors to visit the country's oil installations to verify its output.

There is no report from any other source on Iran's alleged violation of its OPEC quota, Aqazadeh stressed. The baseless charges brought against Iran by the Saudi oil minister have certainly been proposed under political pressures, he said.

Aqazadeh said if violators of OPEC decisions are to be identified, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates are among the first to be blamed for their long record in overproduction.

Referring to a report by the OPEC Secretariat on production ceiling of each member, Aqazadeh said nine OPEC producers including Saudi Arabia had presented incomplete reports to the organization in this regard.

Elsewhere in the interview, Aqazadeh said political issues should not cloud OPEC's atmosphere otherwise, he said, OPEC cannot continue activity on the basis of economic and technical factors.

He said that during the last month's OPEC meet in Vienna, the Saudi oil minister had refused to take any position or make comments regarding the OPEC decisions and was in constant contact with King Fahd and only brought his (Fahd's) instructions into the session.

He said the OPEC members were of the idea that it would be better if King Fahd himself had participated in the session so that the Saudi delegation would have less difficulties.

He said the Saudi obstinacy and lack of cooperation with other OPEC members during the meeting in Vienna had caused oil prices not to rise.

Asked if the U.S. attack on two Iranian oil rigs in the Persian Gulf (April 18) had affected Iran's oil exports, he said Iran is capable of producing and exporting more oil than its OPEC quota of 2.369 bpd.

However, he said, Iran's present production was minus that coming from the platforms before the unprovoked U.S. attacks.

"Iran will remain sticked to its OPEC quota merely because of the respect we attach to the organisation's decision," he made it clear.

On the coincidence of the U.S. attack on Iran's oil rigs in the Persian Gulf, Saudi Arabia's break in diplomatic relations with Iran and the joint talks between OPEC and non-OPEC oil producers last month, Aqazadeh said a unity among OPEC and non-OPEC countries would bring a major part of the world's oil exports under control, which issue, he said is certainly not to the benefit of the main oil producers in the world.

Musavi Details 9 May Cabinet Meeting

LD0905220588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] Today's cabinet meeting first dealt with important domestic and regional issues. After this, Interior Minister Mohtashemi delivered a report on the second round of Majlis elections which will be held on Jerusalem Day for districts requiring a second round.

Prime Minister Musavi then praised the Interior Ministry's efforts in holding the Majlis elections, and expressed the hope that people would again show their support for the pure Mohammadan Islam, as they did during the first round by their full participation, thereby displaying their support for the oppressed. Mr Musavi added: The victory of the revolution and its continuation is subject to the pure popular support for the poor realizing their potential.

At the conclusion of the session, Premier Mir Hoseyn Musavi talked to the Central News Unit correspondent about the reason for the delay in implementing the

approval granted by the Organization for Identification of System's Interests [Majma'e Tashkhis-e Maslehat-e Nezaam] regarding Article 9 of the bill on city land.

He noted that the approval was circulated on Sunday, and expressed the hope that it would eliminate all the problems faced by the organization of city land in all provinces.

He added: In the production sector, such as industrial production, many agreements have been reached in principle. Currently, some units are experiencing foreign currency reserve problems.

This has made the government and investors pay more attention to research and investment in areas with less need of foreign reserves and to give more possibilities for use of the machinery factory [as heard] and the facilities available at home.

This issue shows a healthy trend in general, which we hope will expand in the future.

In conclusion he said:

Now, when our foreign reserves in various sectors are not pegged for investment, as desired by the general public, particularly the private sector [as heard], there will naturally be some variation, and the government will decisively deal with and control this.

Tehran Deputy Criticizes Interior Minister

PM0905134188 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 21 Apr 88 p 1

[Report on Majlis Deputy 'Abbas Sheybani's speech in the Majlis on 20 April 1988]

[Text] Following the comments of the minister of the interior, which were printed in KEYHAN and ETTE-LA'AT, Doctor 'Abbas Sheybani, Majlis deputy from Tehran, delivered a speech during today's open session. He listed the wrong-doings of the Ministry of the Interior and criticized the minister's comments.

Dr Sheybani began his speech by saying: I have some things to say to you and I am begging the imam to pay serious attention to my request. Those who seek the truth have nothing to fear.

I consider myself a man of truth, I fear nothing. I am not seeking reelection. My friends know that I announced 6 months ago that I was not a candidate.

The present group ruling the country has become the absolute ruler and has started to teach the Council of Guardians lessons on the Constitution and on religious law. Its representatives give many interviews. The newspapers that support the oppressed people use different headlines and the radio and television broadcast their words, which are mostly propaganda for a certain group.

The authors of the Constitution are still alive—and this is how they are treated. The Council of Guardian's supervisor is arrested at the ballot box, and no one pays attention to the Council's request to hand over some of the boxes for recounting.

The Council of Guardians has asked many times to send supervisors to count the boxes again, and no one has paid attention to this request. Now the Guardians are being blamed.

The Majlis deputy from Tehran commented that the Council of Guardians is the highest authority for investigating the Constitution and religious laws. He added:

How dare you say these things to the Council of Guardians? You say that neutral and correct people have been chosen. They say they have chosen students and tradesmen.

What tradesmen? Their own tradesmen. What kinds of elections are these when the father of a martyr, the old father of a martyr, is taken and insulted? This is what they call a good election.

The Majlis deputy thanked the people for their votes and added: In some areas where the real representatives of the people had been banned, they were allowed to take part on the last day and at the last minute, and the people voted for them.

The people see everything. They will give everything they have to safeguard Islam. The Council of Guardians is the highest authority that can safeguard Islam.

What are you saying? Why do you insult the Council of Guardians like this? What was this interview that you printed in KEYHAN yesterday?

What is it that you are saying? When the Council of Guardians has not approved a list, why do you print one? This list has to be approved by the Council and then printed. You have gone against the law.

He concluded: As a deputy I ask the Council of Guardians to be strong, to demand its rights with all its might. This is the right of the people, the right of Islam.

Let the whole world know that Islam rules here, not a bunch of people intent on making a lot of noise. We saw what happened to Bani Sadr and the shah with all his power. You be careful. I request the Council of Guardians to look into this matter carefully.

Iraqi Kurds Form New Opposition Coalition

LD0905210188 Tehran IRNA in English 1952 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] Damascus, May 9, IRNA—Six Iraqi Kurdish opposition groups have formed a coalition to escalate their fight against the Ba'thist regime of Iraq, a senior Kurdish leader told IRNA here.

Jalal Talebani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) also thanked Syria for assisting Iraqi Kurds in their struggle to topple the Baghdad regime.

Talebani said the coalition consists of his party (PUK), Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), the Socialist Party of Kurdistan, the Kurdish Socialist Party, Iraq's Communist Party and the People's Democratic Party of Kurdistan.

The coalition, according to Talebani, seeks a unification of struggle among all Islamic, ethnic and democratic groups in Iraq and opening of a new front against Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn.

The PUK leader held a three-hour meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on Saturday and had separate talks with Syrian Vice-President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Assistant Secretary General of Syrian Ba'th Party 'Abdallah al-Ahmar and other Syrian officials.

The Kurdish leader castigated international bodies and big powers for their silence on the Iraqi regime's use of chemical weapons in its war against Iran.

Asked to comment on LE MONDE's article a few months ago quoting him as saying that he would negotiate with deputy chairman of Iraq's so-called Revolutionary Command Council and Saddam's deputy 'Izzat Ibrahim, the PUK leader said he considered Saddam as a war criminal who should be overthrown.

"But we would encourage any individual or group, including Ibrahim who might be able to help topple Saddam." This, he said, was a response to a call from Saddam to Kurdish groups early this year for negotiations with him.

Talebani stressed that the U.S., big powers and regional reactionary Arab leaders helped Iraqi Ba'thist forces in their latest offensive against Iranian forces in Al-Faw. He noted that the Al-Faw operations had been jointly planned by the U.S., Kuwait and Iraq.

Wishing for further cooperation between the newly-formed coalition and the Islamic Republic, Talebani vowed that Kurdish peshmergas would continue their operations against Iraqi forces in Kirkuk.

Talebani also revealed that a PUK office would shortly be opened officially in the Syrian capital.

Editorial Says 'Real War' Against U.S.

LD0905132588 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 20 Apr 88 pp 13-20

[Editorial by Yunes Shokrkhah: "The Persian Gulf, the Roar of the Iranian Revolution's Guns"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] A cursory glance at the crisis-provoking American actions in the Persian Gulf shows that none of these actions has had achieved anything worthwhile militarily.

This is quite clear to all military experts as well. There is one question that arises here: What is the aim of the United States in all these actions?

We must look for the first answer to that question in the McFarlane affair. That crisis damaged U.S. credibility in two ways. First, it looked as if the Americans were paying bribes to the Iranians.

Second, the Arabs regarded Iran in a bad light. The first goal of the military actions in the Persian Gulf was to eliminate the above-mentioned elements from White House foreign policy; in other words, an effort was made to regain the dignity lost to Iran.

In the midst of all this two members of the GCC—America's regional NATO—became more active, paralleling the American move. The adoption of more hostile attitudes by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait—on U.S. orders—indicated a more obvious turn toward Baghdad by Washington.

The third U.S. terrorist action proves this: Coinciding with its attacks on Iranian oil platforms, the United States opened fire on the Al-Faw fronts—which removed all doubts with regard to American aims in the Persian Gulf and removed the mask of neutrality from the White House. [passage omitted]

There was a mixture of Soviet fire in favor of Iraq and U.S. fire against Iran; this indicates two things: First, as far as theory is concerned, Washington and Moscow are in the same front against Iran, and each is putting pressure on Iran from its own point of view.

The second is the defeat of the Soviet plan that by arming Iraq with new missiles, it could take the war initiative into its own hands. [passage omitted]

With this military action against Iran, the United States wiped out any Arab support there might have been for the Soviets. This outward sign of Washington's solidarity with the Arabs is more obvious to the right-wing Arabs than the slow methods adopted by Moscow. [passage omitted]

If we overlook U.S. tactical aims, we must view White House military actions against Iran as an effort to dry up the source of Iran's revolutionary behavior. The White House wants to shift Iran's policies from reliance on revolutionary methods to reliance on conservative diplomatic methods.

This is also the reason why, following each of the three attacks, the White House did not close the door to Iran's return to traditional diplomacy. [passage omitted]

The United States has used elements like Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in the Persian Gulf region and has used its European allies too, for an international force. For this reason, Iran's reply must also be given in an international framework.

If the United States wants to remove the dignity of the revolution so that it does not inspire others, Iran's reply must be a blow against the international network of this line of thinking. For this reason we must not recognize any borders when considering our reply.

Iran must enter a new, powerful, domino-like series of reactions, starting with attacks against the bellicose Iraqi regime and the American puppets in the region, who have officially entered the war against Iran by providing means and equipment for Iraq. [passage omitted]

The people of Iran now know how valid their anti-imperialist sentiments really are. They know better than ever that the Iraqi regime is only a military tool in American hands to crush the Iranian Revolution.

The revolutionary people of Iran can now see that the Americans are the ones pulling the strings in the war and that the real war is the one against the United States.

The Iranian people have recognized the wicked diplomacy of those countries who pretend to be anti-imperialist. They will never forget which countries provided a shield of protection for the Americans by remaining silent. [passage omitted]

Commentary Examines Inflation, Causes
NC0905131988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 9 May 88

[Central News Unit research group commentary: "A Cursory Glance at Spiraling Prices"]

[Excerpts] Under the present circumstances, the Iranian people, particularly the large segment of the population made up of employees, workers, and fixed income groups, are faced with high prices and inflation. Everyone is trying to tackle this problem in different ways.

The prices of commodities and services have risen dramatically in the past 1 or 2 months. As a result, the purchasing power of fixed income groups has sharply decreased. The massive rise in the prices of essential consumer goods causes more distress than any other price hike.

Inflation and irregularities in the distribution system for most items have, in practice, doubled the pressure on the people. For example, prices of spare parts and tires for various vehicles have risen to mind-boggling heights.

Moreover, the erratic distribution of fruit has caused problems. This upward trend in prices, particularly in the past 1-2 months, continues. This trend warns government officials that there is a need for swift and decisive measures to control prices, and for a campaign to combat fundamentally and intensively the problems of inflation.

Inflation widens the gap between various strata of society and causes damage that cannot be repaired quickly or even in a short time. Inflation, if not contained, can create major economic, social, and political crises in the country.

There has been an abundance of material discussing the reasons for the rise in inflation in Iran. The causes have been enumerated and detailed. In short, inflation surfaced and continues in Iran as a result of various accidental economic, structural, and psychological factors.

Now more than ever we should realize that the phenomenon of inflation in Iran is a fundamental and structural issue whose growth can be attributed to the method of economic planning in past years and in current planning for the future. The true nature of economic inflation in Iran began in 1973 and 1974 with the considerable rise in international oil prices. [passage omitted]

In 1986, inflation in the country was caused by a reduction in oil prices, which resulted in a drastic drop in the government's foreign exchange earnings and a decrease in imports and production.

The depreciation of the dollar and an increase in the government's budget deficit served to spur inflation. Certain measures initiated by the Majlis and the government to combat this state of affairs further raised the level of inflation.

For example, in 1986 the Majlis approved a bill stipulating that goods imported against foreign exchange earnings were exempt from the price fixing plan. This played a major role in boosting internal inflation.

The domestic distributors for goods and services abused the existing conditions and embarked on an unprincipled increase of prices. When supply is decreased in society, distributors and middlemen increase sales and purchases of goods in order to gain more profits.

The increase in money circulation increases inflation. At the beginning of this year, the government initiated new measures for curbing inflation. By entrusting powers of price fixing and measures for punishing violators to the government, the imam initiated more effective and extensive plans to control inflation. [passage omitted]

The government strived to curtail as much as possible the role of the middleman in the transfer of goods from the producers or the government to the consumers. The public hoped that the continued implementation of the government plans would combat profiteering and increase the penalties, arrests, and sentences of the blackmarket ringleaders.

However, for reasons which are not too clear, the intensity and fervor of the goverment plan have unfortunately gradually dwindled away.

Even now reports of the steps taken to combat profiteering and mete out government punishments are seen in the daily mass media, but the reports seem to pale in comparison with those of earlier days, when this plan was first implemented.

Public expectatiaons in the campaign against profiteering are centered on taking a drastic stand against the blackmarket ringleaders. Minor retailers and dealers cannot by themselves play a major role in raising prices.

In any case, under the present circumstances the brunt of the rising prices falls once again on the shoulders of employees, workers, and fixed income groups. Prices of numerous goods are increasing and even though the rise in inflation in the past 2 months has resulted from incidental and psychological factors, and to a certain extent from the developments in the imposed war, it should not be allowed to continue.

Ignorance and lack of planning in distribution have been responsible for the latest spread of inflation. Even though certain events have taken place, they should not be the reason to relegate to oblivion plans and effective programs which benefit the people.

In any case, conditions clearly indicate the need for decisive and speedy government measures to combat high prices and those responsible for them. The Muslim Iranian people are well aware of the government's present shortage of foreign exchange and its resulting inability to provide adequate supplies of goods.

However, they do want the government to fight inflation, at least to firmly tackle blackmarketeers and their middlemen. The heroic Muslim nation of Iran is preparing itself for blows against the Ba'thist Iraqi regime and for a serious battle against the United States. Economic difficulties, particularly inflation, should not be permitted to prevent this preparation.

It is the duty of the government to understand the situation and formulate a suitable economic contingency plan for continuing a presence on the fronts of battle against world oppression.

Iraqi Allegations Over Recent Shelling Refuted

LD1005105888 Tehran IRNA in English 1023 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 10, IRNA—A spokesman of the War Information Headquarters (WIH) here Tuesday reiterated that Iran has not made any pre-emptive attacks on any Iraqi city except in reprisal and for holding Baghdad at bay. He said the Iraqi regime as well as the world nations already fully know Iran's code of war conduct and added that its rules will remain unchanged.

He said Iraq's allegations that Iran has attacked the Iraqi city of Darband-e Khan are totally unfounded.

In the recent weeks Baghdad has sporadically claimed that the Iranians have shelled Basra, Al-Sulaymaniyah and Darband-e Khan of Iraq.

The spokesman said that based on Iraq's previous propaganda campaigns against Iran, it is safe to conclude to that in the future weeks, too, it will continue to publish similar claims against Iran which will hardly warrant a reply from the Islamic Government.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Communique No 3,197

LD0905203288 Tehran IRNA in English 1934 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 9, IRNA—Iranian naval units, in an effort to deprive the Iraq regime of receiving any military equipment via the Persian Gulf, intercepted and searched four cargo ships, gas and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Sunday. They also closely monitored movements of foreign warships in the waterway.

Announcing the above here Monday, the 3197th Joint Staff communique said the Islamic Republic Air Force effectively carried out its routine patrol missions over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman yesterday to provide air cover for the Navy.

Iraqi forces sustained heavy casualties and losses in artillery duels with Iranian combatants throughout the fronts especially in Sumar Sunday.

Iran's Muslim forces shelled a group of Iraqi soldiers engaged in engineering activities in Qasr-e Shirin theater, western sector, yesterday, inflicting several casualties on them.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy gun emplacements and a watch tower were destroyed in parts of the southern and western fronts yesterday when hit by Iranian artillery fire.

Movement of Iraqi motorized columns were checked by Iranian artillery fire in Zurbatiyah, Varmahraz [name as received], Khanaqin and Quraitu Sunday, concluded the communique.

Air Force Bombs Sharhani

LD1005105988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran reports that at 0550, 0555, 0630, 0635, 0710, 0715, 0930, 0935, 1030, and 1035 today the brave pilots of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, using their fighters, heavily bombed the troop concentrations, fortifications, and armored equipment of the aggressive Iraqi army in the Sharhani operational sector. After inflicting heavy losses and casualties on the Zionist enemy, they all returned safely to their bases.

Pakistan

30 Afghan Jets Raid Border Village; 6 Killed

BK0905164888 Hong Kong AFP in English 1641 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] Islamabad, May 9 (AFP)—Thirty Afghan Air Force jets violated Pakistan air space Monday and bombed a border town killing at least six people, sources said.

The aircraft bombed Arundu in the northwestern Chitral border district at around 6.45 am (0145 GMT) Monday, killing at least six people and destroying several houses, sources contacted by telephone in Chitral said.

Sources at the local militia headquarters in nearby Darosh said that 30 Afghan Air Force planes took part in the raid and added that they had also bombed the Barikowt area, just across the border, killing about a dozen Afghan resistance guerrillas and wounding more than 20.

Observers said it was the largest Afghan Air Force bombing raid, in terms of the number of aircraft, on Pakistan soil since the start of the Afghan conflict in 1979, when Soviet troops invaded Afghanistan to prop up the communist regime in Kabul.

The sources in Chitral said that the aircraft also dropped incendiary bombs setting ablaze crops and a jungle in the area, and added that Pakistan border militia troops were fighting the jungle fire. Residents in Arundu started fleeing the town immediately after the raid.

The militia sources in Darosh said the Afghan aircraft had also bombed mujahidin guerrillas occupying Barikowt, a former Afghan Army garrison abandoned to the rebels late last month.

About a dozen guerrillas were killed and more than 20 injured in the air raid. The injured rebels were taken across the border to hospitals in Darosh and Chitral.

Observers said the raid on Barikowt may have been aimed at preventing a buildup of mujahidin strength in the area, noting that the Afghan Army withdrawal from the garrison had made access to provinces in eastern, central and northern Afghanistan easier for the rebels.

Monday's raid followed cross-border violations by 10 Afghan Air Force jets Saturday, press reports said.

Some 200 people, mostly Afghan refugees, died in February last year when Afghan Air Force jets bombed camps near the border town of Miran Shah.

Curfew Brings Karachi Situation Under Control

BK0905154288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] The situation in the violence-affected areas of Karachi is now under control after the imposition of curfew. The death toll in the disturbances has now risen to 25 with 1 more person dying of his injuries.

According to official sources, 8 persons injured in shooting and stone throwing incidents were brought to the hospital today from the Pak Colony police station area.

Another person with a stab wound was admitted to Landi Hospital and is said to be in critical condition. Patrolling by law enforcement agencies continues in the affected areas and a number of persons have been arrested on various charges.

Press Note Issued

BK1005024688 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] A press note issued by the Karachi commissioner said the situation in all the four districts of Karachi remained peaceful yesterday. Of course, one incident was reported in Joharabad area of the central district where some youths set a vehicle on fire.

Two persons were arrested on the spot. At the same place, a taxi was damaged and its driver was injured; he died later at the hospital. The press note said a vigil is being maintained on the situation to facilitate a return to normalcy in the affected regions.

House-to-house search operations are being carried out at affected areas of Khwaja Ajmer Nagri to recover weapons.

The Karachi administration has announced that curfew restriction will be relaxed from 1800 to 2000 today in (?Brigade), Shah Faisal Colony, Landi, Malir Extension and Jamshed (Sarkis) and New Town Police Station areas.

The curfew restriction has been relaxed from 0300 to 0900 this morning in Karachi West. It will be relaxed again from 1600 to 2200. There will be no curfew relaxation in central district areas today.

Ammunition Dump Cleanup Operation Completed
BK0905083788 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has admired the high sense of duty, spirit of sacrifice, and professional competence of the Army units engaged in the cleanup operations of the Ojri ammunition dump. He said the entire nation was appreciative of successful and efficient handling of this stupendous task.

Addressing the troops at the Ojri Camp today on the successful completion of the operation launched to clear the exploded and unexploded and half-burned rockets, missiles, and projectiles from the site in a record time of 25 days, the president said such incidents did take place in the past, but this was the most serious and difficult.

At the same time, he said, the spirit of sacrifice and devotion to duty of the engineering group and auxiliary units was equally matching and exemplary.

Sri Lanka

Ban on Extremist Sinhalese Party Lifted
BK1005075588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] The Sri Lankan Government today lifted the ban on the outlawed Janata Vimukthi Peramuna, JVP. The decision to lift the ban which is the outcome of month-long negotiation between the government and the JVP leaders was announced in Colombo by the national security minister, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali. The JVP activists are however required to surrender their arms to the chief incumbent of the Buddhist temple before the 29th of this month. Thereafter, the JVP men, now in government custody, will be released.

Agreement Signed With Outlawed Party
BK1005115888 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 10 May 88

[Text) An agreement was signed at 0611 this morning between the government and that Janatha Vimukthi Pramuna [JVP] to end violence in the south. The minister of national security, trade and shipping, Lalith Athulathmudali, signed on behalf of the goverment while the leader of the JVP, Rohana Wijeweera, and the general secretary of the party, Upatissa Gamanayake, signed on behalf of the JVP.

According to the announcement by the minister of national security at a news conference this morning, the government has immediately lifted (?proscription) of the JVP and related trade unions and students' movement and will stop cordon-and-search operations by the Armd Forces. The JVP will immediately stop all acts of violence and enter the political mainstream.

Under the agreement the JVP will hand over their weapons to predetermined Buddhist temples by the 29th of this month. After the arms surrender has been completed, all those detained by the government for being members of the JVP will be released. If the JVP does not complete their surrender of weapons or recourse to violence, proscription of the party will be reintroduced. The minister said the JVP and the government have agreed on the amount of weapons and their serial numbers. He said weapons to be surrendered were 96 weapons taken from the security forces and 600 shotguns taken from civilians.

The agreement was reached after nearly a month of negotiations between Mr Athulathmudali and JVP member Kotley Senanayake. Father Tissa Balasuriya, director of the Center of Society and Religion, acted as the mediator.

Support for Liberation Front Increasing in South
BK0905021588 Hong Kong AFP in English 0207 GMT 9 May 88

[By M.R. Narayan Swamy]

[Text] Matara, Sri Lanka, May 9 (AFP)—Sinhalese extremists are capitalising on anti-India sentiments and slowly turning southern Sri Lanka into another Jaffna, police and residents here say.

"There is an exact similarity to the Jaffna of five years ago," a police officer said, referring to the northern peninsula which was a base for Tamil separatism for 10 years until Indian troops seized the area in October.

Matara District is a stronghold of the outlawed Janata Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, People's Liberation Front), which stepped up its anti-government campaign after India and Sri Lanka signed an accord in July to end Tamil separatism.

The JVP, which in 1971 led a youth rebellion that ended with the loss of more than 10,000 lives, opposes the concessions given to Tamils under the accord and the presence of Indian troops on the island.

In the past seven months, the group has been blamed for nearly 30 murders and 100 other shootings in this district, about 160 kilometres (100 miles) south of

Colombo. Scores of state-owned buses and vans selling government newspapers have been burnt. Sporadic violence continues, despite the deployment of hundreds of police and Sri Lankan troops and scores of arrests.

Repeated wildcat strikes called by the JVP in the south's only university, Ruhana and in colleges and even schools here have been mostly successful.

"The JVP is very well entrenched here," admitted B.Y. Tudawe, leader of the Matara unit of the left-wing United Socialist Alliance (USA). He has twice survived attacks by JVP gunmen. "They are carrying on propaganda saying Sri Lanka will one day be a colony of India," he said, adding they were exploiting the anger against the pact among sections of the majority Sinhalese community.

Many JVP victims have been supporters of the ruling United National Party (UNP) and the USA, both of which back the accord.

A UNP leader attacked two months ago said: "There is a close similarity to what happened in Jaffna in the 70's and what is happening here. Established politicians are bumped off if they speak against. They are allowed to live if they accept the JVP. It is a Jaffna in the making." The UNP leader said increasing JVP activities had forced many ruling party sympathisers to go underground.

Support to the JVP is said to come mostly from middle-class Sinhalese youths and students, the same sections that helped in the 1971 uprising.

Lawyer C. Dahanayake said the situation in Matara town was under control, but was "very bad" in other areas of the district.

The JVP is known to possess Chinese-made T-56 rifles, most of them looted from security forces, home-made guns and grenades.

Officials insisted that the majority of people do not support the JVP, but considered it safe not to oppose.

USA leader Tudawe said unemployment and feelings of distrust among the youths towards the government were helping the JVP to grow.

"I don't think the JVP has any real support," a doctor here said. "But they are being helped by the general feeling that the (1987) accord is bad."

The police officer said the JVP would never be able to become another Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam—the dominant Tamil militant group. "One reason is there is no communal war here. Secondly, JVP does not have any foreign support," he said, adding, "in the long run, we shall win."